# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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### Iraq

The authorities have received "instructions from the head of state to facilitate the work" of UN inspection teams, and according to the prime minister, the government "considers it necessary for these committees to carry out their missions," Radio Monte Carlo reported. The head of the delegation negotiating with the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, on nuclear facilities described his talks as "intensive" but as ending "inconclusively;" he added that the IAEA's decision to partially destroy a nuclear facility was "unfair and lacked any objective basis," thus "proving that the idea is to return Iraq to the times of backwardness," Amman radio noted. The head of the team holding talks with the United Nations on oil exports declared that "the UN delegation is now convinced that many of the conditions and complications included in Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 are not needed," INA reported. The defense minister refuted Secretary Cheney's remarks that Iraq remains a "threat to the countries of the region," terming them statements which "clearly reflect the U.S. Administration's tendentious position against Iraq," the agency continued.

### Israel

Jersusalem radio reported that Health Minister Olmert, now in Washington, said his failure to meet with Vice President Quayle was due to the "administration's decision to avoid meetings with Israeli officials" and that U.S. officials "were censured for disclosing the boycott." Shamir is "furious about the commotion" caused by Olmert's failure to coordinate a meeting with Quayle, DAVAR reported. Senior political sources observed that growing numbers of international bodies are "drawing conclusions" from Israeli ministers' descriptions of the "depth of the crisis" with the United States and that "in the very near future the situation will also be reflected in Israel's relations with other countries," the paper continued. Foreign Ministry sources termed Olmert's request to meet with Quayle "an impudent breach of protocol from the outset," HA'ARETZ noted. Meanwhile, following talks with Germany, political sources related that Berlin too is linking financial aid "to a settlement freeze" in the territories, DAVAR stated. A senior security official told the prime minister that the bombing of the Buenos Aires embassy was carried out by "Hizballah terrorists who were assisted by the Iranian Embassy," YEDI'OT AHARONOT reported.

### Inter-Arab Affairs

Mubarak sent an "urgent" letter to President Bush urging that the "escalation against Libya" be halted, and he suggested that James Baker and his Libyan counterpart hold talks in Cairo, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Meanwhile, an official Arab League source denied that the League has suspended efforts to resolve the Lockerbie issue, MENA stated. In an interview with AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I, Libya's foreign minister declared that "we will comply" with the International Court of Justice's ruling on the Lockerbie defendants "whether it is in our favor or against us, because we are confident of its integrity."

### Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, in discussing the anniversary of the Camp David accords, declared that "Egypt without a doubt has gained militarily and economically from the peace agreement" and that due to this peace "Egypt has taken an unparalleled strategic step in the edification of its infrastructure," Tripoli international radio reported. Al-Qadhdhafi added that because the Palestinians "did not take advantage" of the peace accords, "they are out of breath pursuing demands that were possible to obtain with the peace treaty," thus making it "a failure to stop the struggle and to demand today what was offered yesterday," the radio continued.

### Jordan

A "responsible" source refuted reports on a confederation among Jordan, Palestine, and Iraq, terming them "totally unfounded and baseless" because Iraq's participation is "absolutely incompatible with the current situation," AL-QUDS reported.

### Sudan

Khartoum has officially requested Egypt to mediate with the United States to prevent Washington from designating it as a terrorist state, MENA reported.

## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Mubarak Sends 'Urgent Letter' to Bush on Libya

*JN2603200692 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Egyptian President Mubarak has sent an urgent letter to U.S. President George Bush in which he urged that the escalation against Libya be halted because of the grave danger this poses to the entire region. He proposed holding a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Libyan counterpart, Ibrahim al-Bishari, in Cairo to remove the unintentional misunderstanding in developments of the crisis between the two countries.

On another level, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has asked Arab states to show solidarity with Libya if the UN Security Council issues a resolution imposing an embargo. In the Opera Cultural Saloon [salun al-upira al-thaqafi] symposium held in Cairo last night, 'Abd-al-Majid said that a Security Council resolution against Libya, based on Article VII of the UN Charter, is illegal because that article only is to be invoked if a state mounts an aggression against another state. 'Abd-al-Majid considers that the imposition of sanctions on Libya will create harmful effects, not only for Libya but for neighboring states and the entire region as well.

The Arab League secretary general strongly criticized remarks by UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali regarding Resolution 242. 'Abd-al-Majid said: Regardless of the seventh or eighth article, Article 25 of the Charter states that each member state must implement Security Council resolutions. The binding nature is there because the continuation of occupation of territory by force is unacceptable.

'Abd-al-Majid said: There is no reason for Butrus Ghali to say that Resolution 242 is nonbinding because this will only give Israel a pretext not to be committed to the resolution. He said: It is now applauding these remarks, which have become a license to continue its occupation of Arab territories. He pointed out that Ghali's remarks caused negative reactions in many parts of the world.

### Libya Denies Involvement

*AU2603120792 Paris AFP in English 1233 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Report by Jacques Lhuillery]

[Text] The Hague, March 26 (AFP)—A Libyan envoy at the World Court here Thursday [26 March] denied any Libyan responsibility for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Scotland that killed 270 people.

Libya's ambassador to Brussels, Muhammed Sharaf al-Din al-Fayturi, accused the United States and Britain, which want Tripoli to extradite two Libyans suspected in the bombing, of "illegal and arbitrary blackmail".

Libya was "neither directly nor indirectly responsible" for the "odious" attack, he said.

Addressing the 15 judges of the highest U.N. judicial authority at the hearing's opening, al-Fayturi charged London and Washington were violating international agreements by seeking the Libyans' extradition from their home country.

Libya has asked the World Court to issue a restraining order against British and American efforts to have the two men tried in Scotland or the United States, where they have been charged with bombing the jet over Lockerbie in Scotland.

Al-Fayturi presented Libya's case as the defence of a "peaceable small Third World state" against superpower threats.

"If the World Court upholds Britain's request, the peril will be great for small states asked to hand over their nationals or be punished by great powers," he said.

Sir Robert Yewdall Jennings, the court president, chose to withdraw from the bench, handing over to Shigeru Oda of Japan, because Britain is a party in the dispute.

Libya nominated Ahmed Sadek El Kosheri [name as received], a 62-year-old Egyptian international law expert, to act as an "ad hoc" judge. Court rules allow for the appointment of an extra judge to represent a country involved when one of the 15 U.N.-nominated regular judges is of the same nationality as the opposing party.

The court's ruling is not expected for several weeks.

Washington, London and Paris have resumed pressure to have sanctions imposed on Libya by the U.N. Security Council, which is due to vote in New York on Friday [27 March] after a draft resolution panel meeting on Thursday.

Britain and the United States want Libyan compliance with an earlier U.N. resolution, number 731, calling for cooperation in the case and implying the two suspects' extradition. France blames four other Libyans for the bombing of a French UTA airliner over Niger in 1989, which left 170 people dead.

Three days ago, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's government announced the two suspects would be handed over to the Arab League—but then backtracked, refusing to surrender the two if they were then handed over to Britain and the United States.

Libya has vowed however to observe the court's decision.

Britain and the United States argue that World Court proceedings do not affect Security Council decisions.

U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali has stated that the "the Arab League must receive the two accused Libyans and (they should be) handed over in conformity with Resolution 731 in the presence of a U.N. representative."

If Libya refuses, it faces a strict air travel and arms embargo and instructions to reduce its diplomatic representation abroad. The sanctions will probably hold as long as Libya does not definitely renounce terrorism.

The Libyan Government never put its offer to hand over the two suspects in writing, and on Wednesday announced it would not turn over its nationals to the Arab League unless ordered to do so by the ICJ [International Court of Justice] in The Hague.

The World Court has ruled in 80 cases since its creation in 1945. The 15 judges, all from different countries, are elected for nine years by the U.N. General Assembly with Security Council approval.

Only governments are allowed to petition the court, which is empowered to rule on any matter that may involve the violation of an international treaty.

In Paris, Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard said France was determined to "speedily" push through the U.N. Security Council resolution imposing sanctions against Libya.

"Given Libya's apparent unwillingness to abide by Security Council Resolution 731," which demands Libyan cooperation in Western investigations into the airliner bombings, the spokesman said, France wants quick negotiations within the council, as well as between Britain, France and the United States.

The U.N. Security Council meets later Thursday to discuss a new resolution imposing an air and military embargo on Libya, and the French Ambassador to the United Nations, Jean-Bernard Merimee, has said it could be voted as early as Friday.

### Source Denies Suspending Talks

*NC2603154192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1446 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—An Arab League official source has stated that reports published today on suspending the Arab League efforts to find a solution to the Libyan-Western conflict are false. He stressed that the Arab League resolution passed on 22 March provided for forming a seven-member ministerial committee that includes the Arab League secretary general and tasking it with holding urgent contacts with the parties concerned, the Security Council president, the Security Council member states, and the UN secretary general. He pointed out that these efforts aim at finding a solution to the crisis in accordance with international law. The source said that within the framework of this resolution, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received the French and Italian ambassadors to brief them on the developments in the situation.

After his meeting with a three-member European delegation, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid voiced his hope that the Security Council will postpone passing any resolution until after the International Court of Justice has handed down a verdict on the conflict. He also expressed hope for further efforts to reach a negotiated settlement that precludes any repercussions that might increase tension in the region.

### Libyan Delegate on 'Crisis'

*NC2603215992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this evening with 'Ali al-Turayki, Libya's permanent delegate to the Arab League. They discussed the developments in the Libyan-Western crisis in light of the determination by the United States, Britain, and France to seek a UN Security Council resolution tomorrow imposing economic sanctions against Libya.

Al-Turayki returned to Cairo from Tripoli earlier this evening after attending the meetings of the seven-member Arab League committee with senior Libyan officials in Tripoli. Upon his return to Cairo, al-Turayki conferred with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

### 'Abd-al-Majid Criticizes Ghali's Israel Remarks

*NC2603180592 Paris AFP in English 1723 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Nicosia, March 26 (AFP) - The head of the Arab League blasted his counterpart at the United Nations on Thursday [26 March] for saying Israel could not be forced out of occupied Arab land.

Arab League Secretary General, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, criticized U.N. Secretary General Butrus Ghali, for saying last Thursday that U.N. Resolution 242 was "not binding," according to a radio broadcast monitored in Cyprus.

Butrus Ghali's statement stirred controversy among Arab diplomats at the United Nations, prompting his spokesman to issue a clarification later the same day.

"It should be understood that the Resolution (242) is not enforceable since it was not adopted under Chapter VII," said spokesman Francois Giuliani.

"Nothing allowed Butrus Ghali to say that Resolution 242 is not binding and to thus give Israel a pretext not to respect the resolution," 'Abd-al-Majid said in an interview broadcast by Radio Monte Carlo's Middle East service.

His comments came after the Arab League on Sunday asked the United Nations not to impose sanctions on Libya as a punitive measure for its refusal to extradite two terrorist suspects to the United State or Britain.

'Abd-al-Majid said "every member state of the United Nations must apply the U.N. Security Council resolutions," and that "the binding character (of Resolution 242) is evident from the fact of the inacceptability of maintaining occupation by force." [sentence as received]

He said Butrus Ghali's statements elicited "negative reactions almost everywhere in the world."

Both Butrus Ghali and 'Abd-al-Majid are Egyptians. Before they joined the international bodies, Butrus Ghali served under 'Abd-al-Majid in the Egyptian Government.

In Egypt, meanwhile, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa expressed the hope that Libya would not be hit with economic sanctions "in the interest of the Libyan people and its destiny."

Musa, who was part of the an Arab League mediating committee that visited Libya on Tuesday, also ruled out a new mediating mission to Tripoli.

## Palestinian Affairs

### PLO Official Denies Foreign Representation Cuts

*PM2303115092 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 20 Mar 92 p 15*

[Unattributed report: "PLO Will Not Be Closing Any of Its Offices"]

[Text] 'Abd-al-Latif Abu-Hijlah Abu-Ja'far, director general of the PLO Political Department, has denied press reports that the PLO intends to close some of its embassies and representation offices abroad.

Abu-Hijlah told AL-HAWADITH that the PLO is willing to open embassies in any states which wish to recognize it.

A Tunisian weekly newspaper last week had said that the PLO had summoned its ambassadors and the directors of its offices in the West, Central, and East European states and in the major Asian states to discuss these embassies' situations.

The Tunisian newspaper had said that the conditions affecting the Palestinian cause and the PLO at the political and financial levels had prompted a meeting of Palestinian ambassadors and raised the possibility of reducing the number or size of these missions.

But Abu-Hijlah denied that the PLO could have summoned its ambassadors during that period.

### 'Ashrawi: Confederation Follows Independent State

*TA2403172092 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Mar 92 p 2*

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, Palestinian peace talks delegation spokeswoman, by Samir al-Rantisi; date and place not given]

[Text] [Al-Rantisi] A debate in Palestinian circles has flared up recently over the confederation issue, specifically over the possibility that such a formula might be drawn up before the establishment of a Palestinian state. What is your view on this issue?

['Ashrawi] First of all I would like to emphasize that what AFP attributed to me is incorrect and a distortion. All I said was that work was under way to draw up the details of "the confederation formula." I did not say that we were about to publicize this formula now or present it at this stage. Confederation is an arrangement which concerns the negotiations over the final and permanent status. It has nothing to do with the arrangements of the current talks on the interim phase, which concern the measures for the transfer of power as well as Palestinian self-government.

[Al-Rantisi] Two Palestinian views have appeared in the debate over confederation. One view perceives the confederation formula to be more effective in the current negotiations process. The other believes that confederation should be implemented once an independent Palestinian entity is established. What is your comment on these views?

['Ashrawi] First of all I should emphasize that confederation presupposes the existence of two independent entities. This formula is based principally on relations of equality as well as mutual respect and recognition between two entities. This does not mean that we reject confederation, for it has been part of our national program for many years. All this does not however mean that it will be implemented now but rather in the final stage, after the independent state is established, because its implementation now will collide with nonexistent equations. Therefore, recent attempts to link confederation with the sovereignty issue are totally unjustified. At present we are trying to prevent our national identity from being dissolved into that of any other party.

[Al-Rantisi] Recent reports have referred to Jordanian reservations about "the confederation formula" and have stated that King Husayn himself has expressed this reservation. How accurate are these reports?

['Ashrawi] I have no knowledge of those reports. This question should be addressed to the Jordanian side. For my part I believe that there is a need to work out the concept and details of the confederation, but the decision to implement this formula is political because it has to be made at the political level—by the highest levels of the Palestinian and Jordanian sides.

[Al-Rantisi] It has recently been reported that the upcoming round of talks will be held on 27 April in Washington and that it will be a short round. Can you confirm this report?

['Ashrawi] The announcement on this was made in Washington. So far, however, we have not received an official invitation, nor have we received an official report on this date. It seems to us that the U.S. Administration is inclined to convene the upcoming round of talks on this date.

[Al-Rantisi] UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali stated recently that he does not consider Resolution 242 as obligating Israel to withdraw. Then he retracted and said that the resolution was binding but that it could not be imposed by force. What is your comment?

['Ashrawi] It is very regrettable that Mr. Ghali, in his first news conference since assuming the post of UN secretary general, expressed a wrong and negative interpretation of Resolution 242. We believe that the resolution obligates Israel to withdraw. Although Mr. Ghali corrected himself by saying that the resolution was not

adopted on the basis of Article 7 which allows enactment by force, he should have referred to the importance of the principle of respect for international legitimacy as a whole and in an indivisible manner and to the fact that this legitimacy is basically derived from international law, which should be respected and implemented. We hope that Mr. Ghali will be more accurate in his future remarks.

## Algeria

### Boudiaf Discusses Problems of Country, Youth

*LD2503175992 Algiers APS in English 1134 GMT 24 Mar 92*

[Text] Algiers, Mar 24 (APS)—The major concerns of youth were at the center of a meeting the chairman of the Higher State Committee [as received], Mohamed Boudiaf, had Monday with a group of youngsters representing various districts of the capital. During the meeting, Boudiaf tackled the concerns of the youth and their daily problems underlining that the search for investments likely to generate jobs is "one of the priorities of the economic program". "This meeting, the chairman of the Higher State Committee said, is part of a series of contacts aimed at the exchange of points of view, pointing out that every citizen has a part of responsibility. The crisis lived though by Algeria, he said, has as its origins the failures in the exercise of responsibility, adding that the latter is a duty and not honour".

Moreover, Boudiaf invited the youth to "unite in the interest of the nation and to organize themselves at all levels so as to contribute in the solution of their problems by themselves and at the same time be associated in the process of national development. The Higher State Committee, he said, is on the point to launch its project of national gathering as an instrument of dialogue with the various categories of the people and the creation of an atmosphere of cooperation and confidence between the summit and the basis to get the country out of problems cumulated since 30 years". Answering the interrogations of the youth, on concrete solutions the state envisages to bring to problems of unemployment and housing, Boudiaf answered that "this problem is not specific to Algeria, even the developed countries suffer from it" and reaffirmed that "investments will be oriented in a way that will jugulate this problem". This meeting was an occasion for the youth who came from the various youth houses of the capital to expose the difficulties they are facing mainly in the field of vocational training.

The meeting was also centered on the phenomenon of immigration, mainly the brain drain and the immigration of university graduates to neighbouring countries. In this context, the youth expressed their attachment to work in their country whatever are the difficulties they will meet. The chairman of the Higher State Committee stressed the particular importance he grants to this category of the Algerian society saying that it constitutes "the element that regenerates life and constitutes the energy of Algeria and its future". During the meeting that the chairman of the Higher State Committee wanted a frank and direct one, the youth expressed their satisfaction about the atmosphere in which the dialogue was held and hoped that this will be the commencement of similar meetings. On another development, Boudiaf received a delegation of Scouts. In this context, he recalled the importance of the role of Scouts in the nationalist movement. He encouraged the delegation to continue developing the actions of Scouts mainly in the field of youth training and the improvement of the spirit of patriotism, solidarity and mutual aid.

### State Council Member Haroun Views European Talks

*LD2403111592 Algiers APS in English 1037 GMT 23 Mar 92*

[Text] Algiers, Mar 23 (APS)—"The authorities of the Western countries I visited recently as special envoy of the chairman of the Higher State Committee [as received], Mohamed Boudiaf, showed a total understanding towards the situation in Algeria which resulted from the interruption of the electoral process", Ali Haroun member of the committee told APS Sunday. In a first assessment of his explicative mission that led him in two steps to Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden, Ali Haroun said there is a total readiness to help Algeria. This mission which will soon be directed towards other countries, did not take place earlier because of priorities that were imposed on the country after the interruption of the electoral process, he said. It is an answer to expectations from the visited countries "as in the beginning, there was distorted news about the situation in Algeria and the comments of the French media that were not all favorable", he pointed out.

We noted during this mission an evolution of the position of Europe in comparison of the position expressed during the Lisbon meeting, Ali Haroun said. "There was a total understanding concerning the motivations of the interruption of the electoral process which was absolutely indispensible to safeguard democracy which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) promised to fight in case it reaches power". In Belgium, it was understood that the resignation of President Chadli Bendjedid, provoking the interruption of the electoral process, was in fact a step towards democracy. In Spain, "there was a concern about the respect of human rights". The Spanish premier promised that his country will, at the governmental level, make an effort to help Algeria even if possibilities are limited. On its turn, the Spanish private sector is ready to help the Algerian authorities to get the country out of the economic [word indistinct], Ali Haroun said.

As for the EEC, there is a complete readiness to help Algeria which has to define the priority axes of its action to fight the deep causes of the crisis and enable the Higher State Committee materialize its commitments in the field of democratic exercise. For the Scandinavian countries, there was another concern. It is linked to the reestablishment of democracy, the guarantees and means to reach it and the as well as the situation of human rights [as received], Ali Haroun said. The explanation thus centered on the respect of human rights in Algeria, dignity and the physical and moral personality of the detained individuals.

"If an electoral process, in the name of democratism reaches finally the negation of democracy, in such a case

saying that one will not continue means to be a democrat", Ali Haroun explained to his interlocutors. "All the political actors of the country must agree in such a situation on a minimum as the matter concerns a total change of a project of society on which the majority of the people did not give their opinion". [sentence as received] The minimum, according to Ali Haroun would be "a democratic republic, as we believe in democracy, a social republic as we must preserve the gains of the war of liberation and independence for progress and modernity and a tolerant republic at the religious level".

### Criticizes Newspaper Director's Arrest

*LD2403145992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Mar 92*

[Text] Ali Haroun, member of the Higher State Council [HSC], held a news conference yesterday afternoon for representatives of the Algerian press at the premises of the Presidency of the Republic to discuss his recent visits to a number of European countres as a special envoy of HSC Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf.

He said that the governments of the countries which he visited have expressed to him their profound concern over the future of the democratic process in Algeria, particularly following the sudden resignation of President Chadli Bendjedid and the formation of the HSC as the supreme ruling authority in place of the constitutional bodies. Most of those with whom Ali Haroun held talks expressed their understanding and readiness to support and help Algeria provided that it continues with the democratic process and quickly tries to find solutions to its problems because Algeria's problems cannot wait to be resolved in 23 months, he said.

Asked about the freedom of the press and the arrest of journalists and the conditions of the detainees at the security centers in the southern parts of the country, Ali Haroun said that the freedom of the press has its limits and is provided for in the laws, but, he said, he does not approve of the handling of the case of Abderrahmane Mahmoudi, director of the newspaper L'HEBDO LIBRE [and who was arrested on 17 March].

As to the question of the security centers, Ali Haroun said that these centers are preventive establishments in which people are kept if they are believed to pose a threat to the country's security but that detention does not mean any encroachment on the freedom or dignity of the detainees.

### FFS Calls For Resignation of Ghozali Government

*LD2503150492 Rabat MAP in English 1339 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Text] Algiers, Mar 25 (MAP)—The Front of Socialist Forces (FFS) has called for the resignation of Premier Sid Ahmed Ghozali's government which "has lost all credibility because of successive failures since 1991". In a statement carried by the daily "AL-KHABAR", the FFS Executive Bureau violently criticized the government as "illegitimate and irresponsible" and which ascribes its failures to other causes. For the FFS, repression cannot be a political platform and peace cannot be restored as long as security camps are staked [word indistinct] and the state of emergency enforced.

The statement also lists FFS proposals to solve political, economic and social problems crippling Algeria.

### Security Forces Close Blida University

*LD2503195392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Text] This morning the security forces surrounded Blida's university center and its vicinity. APS reports that this took place after students belonging to the university's Movement for the Defense of the People's Choice prevented other students from attending classes.

APS adds that the security forces evacuated the students from the university center and suspended today's classes until calm returns.

## Egypt

### Mubarak Views Iraq, Libya, Domestic Issues

*NC2603144592 Cairo MAYU in Arabic 23 Mar 92 pp 1, 7*

[Text] President Husni Mubarak stated that the Arabs are continuing the peace negotiations with Israel because it is the only way to stability and security for all the people of the Middle East.

He said Egypt made extraordinary efforts internationally—particularly with the United States—to prevent a fresh strike against Iraq right after the war because of the Iraqi leadership's persistence in concealing its nuclear capabilities. The president referred in this context to the oral messages and appeals he addressed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn before the start of the war to liberate Kuwait—a total of 32 messages and appeals—asserting that if Saddam had responded positively to the advice, none of the ensuing events would have occurred.

In exclusive remarks to Samir Rajab [MAYU chief editor], the president said Egypt has undertaken and is still undertaking many international contacts, particularly with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, to amend the Council's proposed resolution on Libya. He said Egypt has succeeded in introducing fundamental amendments to the draft resolution, whereby a committee will be set up to examine relations between Libya and its neighbors under an economic boycott.

In his remarks, the president affirmed that Egypt's relations with Kuwait and the other Gulf countries are very good, and that what has been said by a Kuwaiti paper about Egypt does not represent a general or official trend because ties between the Egyptian and Kuwaiti peoples are firm and close.

Touching on the domestic situation, President Mubarak said: I am always careful to give draft laws their due share of meticulous and leisurely study before enforcing them, to avert an adverse reaction. Hastiness in such matters, particularly in developing countries, is bound to have negative repercussions, which we do not need, he said.

The president added that any law must "take its time." As an example, he referred to the bill on the relationship between owners and tenants, adding that he demanded that the bill be presented to all parties, so that each of them can be fully aware of what is going on, and hence share responsibility with the National Democratic Party (the majority party). Having been approved by the parties during several hearings, the bill will be presented to the public before being referred to the People's Assembly for discussion, he said.

President Mubarak affirmed that economic reform is making progress along the correct course, in accordance with state procedures.

The president stated that he will pay a visit to Portugal and Tunisia soon.

As for the field tours, during which he inspects production sites, the president said that they will be directly after 'Id al-Fitr. In this context he said: I do not want to exhaust the people who work with me—the guards, my office staff, or ministers—by traveling during the month of fasting.

### Participation in May Multilateral Talks Announced

*NC2603161892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1508 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that Egypt will take part in the multilateral negotiations in May. He pointed out that Egypt's participation stems from the same premise that defined its position in Moscow; namely, that these negotiations are part of the peace process, based on the land-for-peace principle. In a statement today, Musa said that without an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories in return for peace, it is impossible to achieve specific steps in multilateral cooperation, and vice versa. Israel's cooperation in security in return for peace could—or even must—lead to complete peace that is conducive to full cooperation.

Musa asserted that the building of settlements is internationally rejected and is considered an obstacle to peace. He noted the importance of the participation of Palestinians from inside and outside Palestinian territory in the multilateral negotiations, especially since all parties agreed to this in Moscow. Israel, he said, must announce its views on this issue. He pointed out that the multilateral negotiations will be on the expert level.

Russia notified Egypt of the final dates of the meetings of the five committees of the multilateral negotiations, scheduled to convene in May. The information was conveyed during a meeting today between Ambassador Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt, director of the Foreign Minister's office, and the Russian charge d'affaires.

It is worth noting that the committee on the environment will meet in Tokyo on 30 May; the committee on refugees will meet in Ottawa on 13 and 14 May; the committee on economic development will meet in Brussels on 11 and 12 May; the committee on water resources will meet in Vienna on 11 May; and the committee on disarmament will meet in Washington on 11 May.

### Foreign Minister Hopes Libya 'Spared' Sanctions

*NC2603155492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa told reporters that Egypt hopes Libya will be spared any economic sanctions, just as it has been spared any military action thus far. The Libyan people and their interests concern Egypt, he said. This interests Egypt and prompts it to follow developments and participate in the Arab League's efforts and in the seven-member committee that visited Libya the day before yesterday. He said he hopes the issue will be resolved in the best interest of the Libyan people. He ruled out further moves by the Arab League committee and noted that no one asked or recommended that Libya make a certain decision. He pointed out that Libya was left alone to make its own decisions as part of its responsibility toward the Libyan people and international legitimacy.

### Libya's al-Bishari Praises Mubarak Efforts

*NC2603175392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Mar (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, praised the important role Egypt has played and is playing to resolve the current crisis between Libya and the three Western countries—the United States, Britain, and France. In response to a question from a MENA correspondent today, he said that Egypt has worked and is working positively to find a solution to this problem. He pointed out that President Husni Mubarak, noted for his wisdom, experience, and sincerity, is continuing his efforts toward this goal. He stressed that these efforts are received with appreciation and respect by the Libyan people, who have love and esteem for their brothers in fraternal Egypt, led by President Mubarak.

### Editorials Urge Peaceful Solution to Dispute

*NC2603120692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0520 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial headlined "Peaceful Means First," AL-AHRAM explains that the resolution adopted during the Arab League Council's emergency meeting has created an opportunity to resolve the dispute between Libya

and the United States, Britain, and France in a way that safeguards rights and dignity, and spares all the concerned parties and the region the dangers of clashes and the consequences of unjustified disturbances.

The paper asserts that the Arab League Council was fair in calling for abiding by Chapter 6 of the UN Charter, which calls for resolving disputes peacefully, and not Chapter 7, which permits sanctions, because the dispute is basically a legal one and can only be resolved according to the law.

AL-AHRAM concludes: Submitting the case to the International Court of Justice, which meets to discuss it today, is an excellent and practical choice that Libya has pursued to show there are many peaceful methods of reaching a solution, provided there are good intentions and there is agreement to use civilized methods.

Under the headline "Beware of Setting Unsound Precedents," AL-AKHBAR says: The responsibilities and international commitments of countries increase in proportion to their size and influence. Notable among these responsibilities is maintaining international peace by all possible means. It is an accepted fact that the basic aim of establishing the United Nations was to abandon the use of force among its members. It is necessary to exhaust all peaceful means provided for in the UN Charter before resorting to force, which the UN Security Council must approve.

The paper adds: The fact that the three major Western countries—the United States, France, and Britain—have agreed to postpone their planned resolution to impose sanctions on Libya encourages some optimism that they will agree to give peace another chance before resorting to reprisals, in the form of sanctions or a military strike.

### Efforts 'Will Not Go to Waste'

*NC2703081592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0520 GMT 27 Mar 92*

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "More Time and Wisdom To Deal With the Crisis," AL-AKHBAR's editorial today called on all parties to the Libyan crisis to deal with the problem calmly and patiently and to discuss all means that lead to the required results in the best way, before resorting to issuing resolutions whose negative effects might be much greater than their benefits.

The paper believes that taking time to discuss this crisis from all sides and attempting to find a peaceful solution to it will not go to waste. Nor will it mean that if there is incontrovertible evidence of someone's involvement in the ugly crime of murdering hundreds of innocent passengers on the American and French airliners, he will go unpunished.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0708 GMT on 27 March in a similar report adds that AL-AKHBAR concludes: "Stirring up this crisis—especially now, when attention is focused on the Middle East peace talks—could raise some doubts about the motives behind choosing this stage in particular to turn public opinion against the Arabs by leveling accusations at them."]

### Equal Treatment Urged for Israel, Libya

*NC2603105692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Ibrahim Wahbi commentary: "Libya Opts for the Way to Peace"]

[Text] Libya has agreed to hand over the two suspects in the blowing up of the American airliner in 1988 to the Arab League so that its secretary general can hand them over to the United Nations secretary general to be tried in one of the countries concerned: France, the United States, or Britain. At the same time, the Security Council has postponed its meeting to discuss economic sanctions against Libya.

What international observers feared most was that attempts to impose sanctions on Libya would lead to more complicated problems, because the Arab countries would not have agreed to such a step unless evidence was provided that the two suspects were actually guilty.

By making the decision to hand over the two men suspected of blowing up the American airliner to the Arab League, since it is the parent organization for all Arab countries, Libya has resolved the issue with the three Western countries. The Arab League can rely on the United Nations and its secretary general to guarantee a fair trial for the two suspects, even if this trial takes place in one of the countries concerned with the incident.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi vehemently refuses to cover up for the two suspects, but he does insist that justice, legitimacy, and the principles of international law be applied. When Libya resorted to the Arab League, it placed the affair within the framework of the regional Arab organization and the United Nations.

The Arab League stand is reflected in its recent announcement on its desire to reach a peaceful diplomatic solution away from confrontation, and its call for the international community not to resort to sanctions before making sure the accusations are correct and not based merely on suspicion. Libya accepted the peaceful solution we already mentioned out of its concern for keeping the peace, its commitment to international legitimacy, and to avoid anything that could increase tension.

Legitimacy—as it is understood or as it should be understood—should have a single standard applicable to all parties. Legitimacy cannot be measured by double standards. The international community is called upon to use the same standard regarding the massacres, terrorism, violence, and expulsions Israel is practicing in the occupied Arab territories and in Lebanon.

Israeli Prime Minister Shamir is always announcing his defiance of international resolutions and charters. He refuses to stop building settlements in the occupied Arab territories and bringing Soviet Jews over. He also rejects

the right of the United Nations, and even the United States, to visit Israel's nuclear plants, because he knows Israel keeps an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction on its territory. What has the international community done? Has it imposed sanctions?

All the same, Libya only asked that justice and objectivity be ensured in the trial of the two suspects. Had there been any evidence of the accusations leveled by the West at the two suspects, Libya would have been the first to ask that they be severely punished. No one allows terrorists to murder fathers, mothers, and sons. But the absence of evidence, needed for justice and fairness, does not allow the suspects to be considered guilty. Therefore, there can be no thoughts about imposing economic or other sanctions before searching for the necessary evidence, especially since the economic sanctions, if imposed, will not harm Libya alone, but the countries around it as well.

### EC Delegation Holds 'Intensive Talks'

*NC2603150292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a two-hour talk with the EC delegation currently visiting Cairo.

Dr. 'Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, also met with the EC delegation.

Leonard Mathis, assistant Portuguese foreign minister and head of the delegation, said that the EC delegation held intensive talks with Egyptian officials that lasted well over three hours. He added that the talks involved a comprehensive exchange of views on issues of concern to the two sides, especially those concerning the peace process, the EC and Egyptian stands on it, and the commitment of the EC and Egypt to achieve peace and overcome existing obstacles.

He said they also discussed the next round of multilateral negotiations, which will start in May.

As for the EC's stand on the Libyan-Western conflict, he said that the EC fully supports the stands of the United States, Britain, and France.

### Meets Arab League Chief

*NC2603141692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received the EC delegation, headed by Portuguese Assistant Foreign Minister Leonard Mathis, and including Dutch and British representatives. 'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general for international affairs, attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, Mathis said that they discussed the situation in the Middle East, and noted that the EC will do its utmost to overcome obstacles impeding the peace progress. He said the delegation's visit is intended to help the concerned parties, and listen to their views, to overcome the difficulties facing the peace process.

The head of the EC delegation announced that the EC opposes the building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories, and has emphasized this stance several times in the past and informed Israel of it.

'Adnan 'Imran said that during the meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid and the EC troika delegation discussed Middle East developments, current peace efforts, ways to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the important European and UN role in this connection.

'Imran added that the meeting also touched on aspects of the Libyan crisis, noting that an important and useful exchange of views took place. He said that the secretary general explained the Arab viewpoint, which seeks to find a solution without recourse to threats of reprisals and sanctions or the serious consequences of such threats.

The Arab League secretary general called for letting international law be the arbiter in this case and for waiting for the International Court of Justice's verdict.

'Adnan 'Imran said that Chapter 7 of the UN Charter does not apply to the Libyan-Western dispute, whereas Chapter 6—which calls for resolving disputes among countries peacefully—does. He said that Chapter 7 applies to Israel, which threatens international peace and security.

## Libya

### Al-Qadhdhafi on Egyptian Gains From Camp David

*LD2603230492 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] At a mosque today, the brother leader of the revolution discussed the anniversary of the peace agreement between Egypt and the Israelis. He pointed out that Egypt without a doubt has gained militarily and economically from the peace agreement, adding that from a military point of view, Egypt has obtained important equipment for its Air Force, and armored vehicles. Although they are not as advanced as the Israelis, Egyptian experts have been working on developing them. Without a doubt they are more advanced than the aircraft and tanks that Egypt used to obtain from the Soviet Union.

As far as the economic side is concerned, the brother leader pointed out in his address that in addition to economic subsidiaries, there is the very important point of Egypt's commitment to peace, which has enabled Eqypt to direct its efforts toward rebuilding herself economically.

The brother leader added that under the leadership of brother Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Egypt has taken an

unparalleled strategic step in the edification of its infrastructure. This is the basis for all progress, particularly in housing, roads, communications, electricity, and transportation. He pointed out that had it not been for the idea of peace, Egypt would not have been able to achieve all this. I have heard Egyptian brothers saying that they had the last laugh, and that the Israelis returned the land to them and got only ink on paper in return. They note that in exchange for that, there is no doubt that our political disposition is not as free as it used to be. Despite peace on the southern front and the signing of the peace agreement, Arabs have lost about 3,000 Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian martyrs. Syria has lost at least 100 military aircraft and more than 500 tanks, while Lebanon lost its southern territory, including the Litani River, the Egyptians say.

The brother leader added that the Palestinians have also had losses, such as when they did not take advantage of the peace agreement between Egypt and the Israelis. They are out of breath pursuing demands that were possible to obtain with the peace treaty. They did not accept it. Had they continued their struggle, they would still have a right to their demands. It was a failure to stop the struggle and to demand today what was offered yesterday.

The brother leader affirmed that despite the moral defeat of the Arab nation, we must not raise the the enemy's morale by admitting that he won all previous rounds. We must continue our assertions that if we are vigorous, compassionate, united, and sincere in intention, we will be able to regain what we lost. We must not humiliate our nation by belittling its dynamic forces and gains.

### Statement Issued on Lockerbie Dispute

*LD2603200392 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Mar (JANA)—A source at the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation made the following statement:

The Jamahiriyah has sincerely and seriously cooperated in carrying out UN Security Council Resolution 731, which calls on Libya to cooperate fully in the legal investigations into the two painful incidents regarding Pan Am and UTA.

The Jamahiriyah again declares its preparedness to cooperate fully in comprehensive, serious, just, and objective investigations into the incidents regarding the two airplanes, and to inflict the utmost retribution on those whose guilt is proven in these regrettable incidents. The Jamahiriyah declares in advance its commitment to the results of an investigation conducted in accordance with the UN Charter and international law. In addition to welcoming the resolutions of the Arab League, the Jamahiriyah places all its trust in the the League's seven-man committee.

Despite the initiatives made by the Jamahiriyah in the past for a neutral investigation and a neutral international court, the Jamahiriyah urges the seven-man committee to contribute to a political solution based on the principles of international law and the UN Charter, in accordance with the Arab League resolution adopted in Cairo on 22 March 1992.

The Jamahiriyah calls on the UN Security Council to work toward a political solution based on international law and the UN Charter, in accordance with Article 33 of the Charter. It also asks the UN secretary general to shoulder his responsibility to look for a political solution.

The insistence of the United States, Britain, and France on submitting a draft resolution to the UN Security Council, when the International Court of Justice has begun its sessions, is a clear transgression on the prerogative of the International Court of Justice. Furthermore, basing the draft resolution on Article 7 of the UN Charter constitutes a deliberate distortion of history, and shows disdain for the UN Charter and the values and minds of the international community, because Article 7 concerns a threat to international peace and security, or aggression by one state against another.

The Jamahiriyah—a small, peaceful country whose population is less than 3 million—did not threaten international peace and security or commit agression against anyone. On the contrary, the Jamahiriyah, this small and peaceful country, is the victim of continuous and repeated military, political, economic, propaganda, and psychological agression. Article 7 should have been applied to the United States and Britain, not to us. Taking two Libyan citizens as the two suspects in the Pan Am and UTA explosions is a purely legal issue, for which the 1971 Montreal Agreement stipulated the proper procedures.

On the basis of the legal rule stating that the accused is innocent until proven guilty, this cannot take place within the framework of Article 7 unless the law of force has replaced international law and the UN Charter. The Jamahiriyah reiterates its firm condemnation of all forms of terrorism, whatever the source, and denies allegations of involvement in terrorist acts. For this the Jamahiriyah is ready to do the following:

1. While the Jamahiriyah denies this allegation, it does not mind if the UN secretary general or his deputy carry out an inquiry in the Jamahiriyah, to refute or confirm this allegation. The Jamahiriyah commits itself to providing all the facilities and information that the secretary general or his deputy deem necessary to find the truth. The Jamahiriyah deems it possible to conclude an agreement or agreements, bilateral or multilateral, which determine the ways and means necessary to eradicate international terrorism. The Jamahiriyah is ready to enter bilateral or multilateral talks toward this aim.

2. Libya will not allow the use of its territory, nationals, or institutions to undertake any terrorist acts, directly or

indirectly. It is ready to inflict the most severe punishment on whoever is proven guilty of such acts. The Jamahiriyah requires, however, that the Security Council and the three countries specify the tangible measures which they consider necessary to prove that the Jamahiriyah has no connection whatsoever with this terrorism—if the three countries are serious about finding a solution based on international legal principles and the UN Charter—or that the Security Council and the parties concerned consider the issue a legal one which has been submitted to an international legal apparatus, the International Court of Justice, which has already begun its deliberations on the matter. The Jamahiriyah announces its acceptance of the rule of the International Court of Justice. The Jamahiriyah hopes that the voice of right, reason, justice, and human values, and the principles of international law and the UN Charter will prevail, rather than the law of force.

## Al-Bishari on Lockerbie, Terrorism, Nuclear Arms

*NC2603191292 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 22 Mar 92 p 2*

[Interview with Ibrahim al-Bishari, chairman of the Libyan General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, by Muhammad Matar in Cairo "hours before" the Arab League Ministerial Council meeting on 22 March]

[Text] [Matar] The United States and Britain insist on Libya handing over the two men accused in the Lockerbie incident, and Libya has announced its willingness to hand them over to any state except these two. Why did you not consider handing them over to France, for example, to spare Libya economic sanctions or the possibility of a military strike?

[Al-Bishari] It is not a matter of handing over defendants. It is a matter of international laws and principles, and of important provisions included in the UN Charter concerning relations among states. These principles state that no independent and sovereign state will hand over its nationals to another state unless there is an extradition agreement with that state. We have no such agreements with these states. Therefore, handing over Libyan nationals—these suspects or others—would mean abolishing the Libyan state's sovereignty and independence. Furthermore, the Libyan procedures law of 1953—which prohibits handing over Libyan nationals to a foreign state for trial—still exists; it is an old law which no one can repeal.

Nevertheless, Libya has received two indictments—from Scottish judges and from the attorney general in the [District of] Columbia in the United States. We responded logically, rationally, and in a responsible spirit. We understand the text and spirit of UN Security Council Resolution 731, which calls on Libya to cooperate to reveal the truth. We have cooperated, and we are still cooperating with all the parties concerned. We told them that there were judges in Libya, that the competent authorities had appointed a judge to make contact with them, and that this judge would launch an investigation and arrest the defendants. We told them that we would like to know the exact truth of who was behind the incident, and that we were convinced that they should be severely punished.

[Matar] Where are the defendants now?

[Al-Bishari] The suspects are in Libya, in the custody of the investigating judge. The first judge resigned when he felt that he was being subjected to pressure by the political authority in Libya—the people's committees—which stated that trying the suspects abroad might be considered. The judge viewed this as an infringement on the sovereignty of the Libyan judiciary. Another point was raised by British officials, who said that the Libyan judiciary is not incorruptible. The Libyan judge was embarrassed and resigned. This shows that the Libyan judiciary is upright, neutral, and just.

Therefore, the supreme court decided to appoint another judge. The suspects are in the custody of the second judge, who contacted the American and British authorities and affirmed his willingness to cooperate, starting with the findings of the investigations they conducted.

[Matar] If Libya is convinced of the defendants' innocence, why does it fear their trial in the East or West?

[Al-Bishari] We have no objection to their trial anywhere in the world, but there are legal obstacles, which were not created by the political authority in Libya. These obstacles were there before the revolution. Oddly enough, these obstacles were recommended by the British counselors at the time of independence in 1951. They are an exact copy of the Italian, British, and French laws. We cannot abrogate a law by the scratch of a pen just because two Libyan nationals are being accused, because the law is not applied in individual cases only; the law is a general rule which is constantly applied. We asked them to furnish us with evidence of the suspects' guilt. If they are condemned, they will be tried in public before the entire world. I would like to ask the United States if it would hand over an American national to us in the absence of an agreement between us. Would it give us the American pilots who raided Libya in 1986 and killed 400 Libyan citizens?

[Matar] The International Court of Justice is meeting on 26 March to hear the case of the Libyan-Western dispute over accusations that Libya was involved in the crash of an American plane over Lockerbie and a French one over Niger. What are your expectations?

[Al-Bishari] We are fully convinced of the integrity and fairness of the International Court of Justice, because it is the highest international judiciary body. Libya has resorted to this court three times in the past. The first concerned the dispute over the continental shelf between us and fraternal Tunisia. The court issued a ruling and we complied with it. The zone which was disputed is being exploited jointly by us and the brothers in Tunisia, and it has vast amounts of oil and gas. The second time concerned the dispute over the continental shelf between

us and Malta. A ruling was issued and we complied with it. We now have a case with our brothers in Chad over the Aozou Strip, and we will also comply with the ruling.

We have recently resorted to the International Court of Justice in the dispute between Libya and the United States and Britain over the plane crash, so that the court can determine the party that has the right to try the suspects. We will comply with the International Court of Justice's ruling, whether it is in our favor or against us, because we are confident of its integrity.

[Matar] Some Western countries have asked their citizens to leave Libya. Do you consider this to be a prelude to a military operation against Libya?

[Al-Bishari] There are, in fact, 4 million Libyans. There are another 4 million Arabs and foreigners living in Libya. This includes more than 1.5 million Egyptians, a million from the Arab Maghreb and other Arab countries; the rest are foreigners and African brothers. They are contributing in the economic, commercial, agricultural, industrial, and other fields. We also have many foreigners, such as Americans, Italians, French, and others, who work in the oil and other sectors. All of them are contributing positively to the economic revival of the countries they come from. They are welcomed by Libyans, who care for them. If they leave, they will lose more than Libya. No harm has come to these people to make them leave Libya, unless these countries are planning a dangerous operation that targets the Libyan people and harms its citizens, such as an economic boycott or escalation of the situation to the point of armed aggression.

[Matar] If these countries do launch a military operation or an armed aggression, will Libya follow Iraq's example and take these foreigners hostage?

[Al-Bishari] Not at all. Not at all. Western visitors are respected and esteemed by the Libyan people and government. They have guarantees and rights, and also have the freedom to leave Libya whenever they want. No one can force them to stay.

[Matar] If a military blow is dealt to Libya, will your country be ready to confront it?

[Al-Bishari] We are a small country, a small and peaceful people. Our resources cannot be compared to those of these major nuclear countries. But in the end, we will defend our country even if we are defeated or destroyed. We will be forced to defend and fight to the last Libyan with the resources we have. We have the experience of the struggle against colonialism, when we sacrificed 750,000 martyrs and refugees. We are ready to die for our freedom and dignity.

[Matar] Do the Arab countries have a united stand regarding the escalation of the crisis?

[Al-Bishari] Most certainly. The Arab League has issued two resolutions backing Libya and declaring solidarity with it. This reflects a clear Arab determination that any harm inflicted on Libya will have an adverse effect on the other Arab countries, and will be a threat to the security and safety of the region. In a few hours, the ministerial meeting of the Arab countries will come out with an important rejection of any resolution against Libya.

[Matar] Some newspapers have reported that the two defendants had previously been arrested on charges of transporting explosives, but were released after six months in prison. What do you say to this?

[Al-Bishari] Where? I haven't heard or read such reports. I have no information on this, and have not heard that they have been arrested before. How could this be, when one of them is a university teacher and the other is an airline company employee?

[Matar] It has been reported that the U.S. fleet in the Mediterranean Sea sent its warplanes to pick up two people from Libyan territory. How true is this story? Who are these two people?

[Al-Bishari] These stories are part of the psychological war to demoralize us. There is no Libyan willing to collaborate with a foreign power to harm his country and himself.

[Matar] Some have said that Libya is willing to extradite the two defendants to the United States in return for the restoration and normalization of relations. How do you explain this?

[Al-Bishari] I haven't heard of this and we do not have such an intention. This question should be addressed to the U.S. State Department.

[Matar] Some Western circles are saying that there are camps in Libya to train terrorists, and that Libya has only made nominal concessions to the Western demands to halt the program of training terrorists.

[Al-Bishari] We have said that we are opposed to terrorism. We have written to the UN secretary general asking him to tackle the causes of international terrorism and eliminate them. We are willing to receive any UN team to investigate this matter, and we will help it with all we have in order to prove that we do not have terrorist training camps. Whoever has such information should give it to the UN secretary general so the world can find out who protects and supports terrorism.

[Matar] Some have said that Libya is seeking to benefit from the Russian nuclear experts in the military fields.

[Al-Bishari] First, we are not concerned with the nuclear issue and we do not have any nuclear programs. We do not have the capability or resources for this. We are benefiting from the atom for peaceful purposes only. We have called for establishing a zone free of weapons [not further specified] in the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

### Denies Arab League Asked for Suspects

*NC2703074992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 27 Mar 92*

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Mar (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation—Libya's foreign minister—denied reports by some foreign news agencies that the seven-member committee formed by the Arab League Council during its emergency meeting in Cairo last Sunday asked Libya to hand over the two Libyan citizens suspected of involvement in the Lockerbie plane crash, and that Libya rejected this request.

In a statement to MENA, al-Bishari said that the committee came to Libya last Tuesday, and held a series of meetings on implementing the Arab League Council's decision. He added that the talks were characterized by fraternity, objectivity, and concern to find a peaceful way out of the crisis, in accordance with the Arab League's decision and within the framework of respect for international law.

Al-Bishari affirmed that the committee did not ask Libya to hand over the suspects, contrary to reports from some sources. Therefore, Tripoli could not reject an offer which was never made in the first place. Moreover, the committee did not apply any pressure during its talks in Libya. It was honest in its efforts, and reports to the contrary are utterly untrue.

The secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation pointed out at the end of his statement that his country trusts the seven-member committee and its members, as well as the honest efforts by Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. The Jamahiriyah will continue its cooperation with the committee, which stresses the Arab unanimity that crystallized during last Friday's meeting of the League's Council, at the foreign minister level.

### Envoy To Offer 'Specific, Practical' Proposals

*NC2603153392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Mar (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation in the Libyan Jamahiriyah—foreign minister—stated that he has instructed Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Salim al-Turayki, Libyan permanent delegate to the Arab League, who is currently in Libya, to head for Cairo quickly to meet with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

Al-Bishari will present specific and practical Libyan proposals in an effort to resolve the crisis between Libya and Western states.

In a statement to MENA, the Libyan secretary refrained from revealing these proposals.

### 'Total Commitment' to International Law Stressed

*LD2603155692 Tripoli JANA in English 1438 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Tripoli al-Rabia [March] 26 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The masses of the basic people's committees and the professional unions, federations and associations in the Great Jamahiriyah issued a message to the Arab presidents and kings and the secretary general of the League of Arab States which said:

At the time when we [word indistinct] with all honesty and firmness, our resolute rejection of all forms of pressure and international terrorism, we affirm our total commitment to all international laws and treaties.

This has been best expressed by means of the Jamahiriyah's co-operative stance with the international community as well as the concerned parties in the Lockerbie airline case.

During this tense time which the Arab nation is passing through we salute your friendly brotherly stance which you have taken vis a vis the crisis as well as your stand on the side of justice in the face of the wrong, for your stand with the Jamahiriyah and the people of the Jamahiriyah against all forms of pressure and terrorism practised by some countries, who are adopting the role of adjucitors over the international community and are carrying out all forms of illegitimate actions in [word indistinct] name of the international community.

Thus we highly value the brotherly stances of the presidents and kings of the Arab countries and express our appreciation and consideration for the resolution of the Arab League in support of the Jamahiriyah.

We also feel the greatest respect for honest efforts exerted by the secretary general of the Arab League within the framework of the efforts to defuse the crisis.

Here we can easily say these words to history, the conspiracy is far greater than most, and the issue is not merely the Lockerbie issue and soon you will witness beginning from this moment the perpetuation of other 'Lockerbie' incidents. These will all be used against the progressive forces in the Arab nation and the entire world.

Cases such as 'Lockerbie' will never end except when there are no longer any progressive forces. However in the long run the will of the masses is stronger than the most powerful tyrants and greater than any military force.

Soon the right will prevail and the wrong will [words indistinct]. The wrong one will be brought to ruin.

### PRC Envoy on 'Neo-Colonialist Onslaught'

*LD2503192292 Tripoli JANA in English 1448 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabiyah [March] 25 (JANA/Arab Maghreb Union Pool)—The ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Great Jamahiriyah affirmed the

support and stand of the Chinese Government with the Great Jamahiriyah in resisting the neo-colonialist onslaught.

During his meeting this morning with the secretary of trade unions, federations and vocational affairs in the General People's Congress, he praised the exceptional relations which bind the two friendly peoples in both the Great Jamahiriyah and China stressing the need to foster and promote these relations in such a way as to serve the joint interests of the two people .

He also praised the friendly relations which exist between the secretariat of the General People's Congress in the Great Jamahiriyah and the General Committee for People's Deputies in China.

## Sudan

### State Urges Cairo Mediation on U.S. Terror Report

*NC2503114292 Cairo MENA in English 0942 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Text] Doha, March 25 (MENA)—Sudan has officially requested Egypt to mediate with the United States to prevent listing Sudan among the terrorist states in the area in the American report, due to be issued next month on this issue, AL-RAYAH newspaper reported today.

The report carried by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that a special Sudanese envoy is expected to arrive in Cairo within days to complete consultations with Egypt in this respect.

The paper added that Sudan has recently asserted to Egypt that it will never be a source of threat to the Egyptian national security, and that the Sudanese regime has got nothing to do with extremists in Egypt.

### Ex-President Numayri Seeks Anti-Khartoum Alliance

*PM2303124592 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Mar 92 pp 1, 4*

[Unattributed report: "Numayri Negotiating With Garang, and al-Mirghani Solution Which Excludes al-Mahdi and Communists]

[Excerpts] Cairo, London, AL-HAYAH—Some of the influential figures opposed to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir's regime have started a race against time to agree on a formula providing a way out of the political and military crisis which Sudan is experiencing. This is being done through contacts between the South and the North from which the Ummah and Communist Parties have been excluded and in which former President Ja'far Numayri is playing a major part. [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH has learned from informed sources in Cairo that the next two weeks will witness the convening of a meeting described by Sudanese politicians as "crucial" between Numayri, who resides in Egypt, and Colonel Garang, who has been fighting the Sudanese Government since 1983. It will be the culmination of contacts that have continued over the past six months in Nairobi and Harare under the sponsorship of an African state's ambassador in the Kenyan capital.

Contacted by telephone from London the day before yesterday, Numayri confirmed to AL-HAYAH that he will visit Britain next week. He said that he has decided to fight the Sudanese regime "with every means," including launching guerrilla warfare in Khartoum and carrying out assassinations and bombings. He also announced that he was extending his hand to "everyone opposed to the (Sudanese) government, including (Muhammad 'Uthman) al-Mirghani and (al-Sadiq al-Mahdi), despite our rejection of them in the past." He added: "I do not want to be president of Sudan again. Our basic concern is to eliminate the terrorist regime from power." [passage omitted]

It is believed that recent contacts between Numayri, al-Mirghani, and Garang are based primarily on excluding the Ummah Party, the National Islamic Front, and the Communist Party from the formula, which its proponents believe constitutes "a way out of the present crisis in Sudan." Oppositionists in Cairo believe that these contacts have led to the conclusion that the Ummah Party and the Front are responsible for the deteriorating situation in Sudan.

Numayri told AL-HAYAH the day before yesterday that he had sent a message to Lt. Gen. al-Bashir last week in which he accused the Islamic Front of "starting to implement a new political scheme designed to internationalize the problem of the South." He urged Sudanese forces to attain comprehensive national solidarity to defeat the Front's political and economic line and to topple the "military regime," which he described as "classic."

It is believed that his efforts with southern Sudan are based on the promise to reenforce the (1972) Addis Ababa agreement signed by Numayri with the first rebel movement. In his message to the Sudanese president he accused Iran of "playing the major role through funding, arms, and planning to implement the regime's schemes against Garang's forces and the countries neighboring Sudan."

The former Sudanese president told AL-HAYAH that he has corroborated information about "the training of non-Sudanese terrorists in Khartoum." He stated that he had "abandoned his peaceful opposition because that will not lead to any result against a regime which has brandished arms, starved people, withdrawn women's and female students' passports, and filled Sudanese embassies with Muslim Brotherhood elements whose only concern is to fight the people's sons who profess no allegiance to their organization."

### Justice Minister Dies of Heart Attack

*EA2603204992 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] The chairman of the

Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, and their excellencies the RCC members and the ministers lament with extreme and deep sorrow the death and loss to the country and the Sudanese people of Professor Dr. 'Abd-al-Sami 'Umar Ahmad, justice minister and attorney general, whom God took unto Himself this evening after he suffered a sudden heart attack. [passage omitted]

### Authorities Asked To Facilitate Inspection Effort

*JN2603193192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Excerpt] The Iraqi authorities have received instructions from the head of state to facilitate the work of the international inspection teams. The government considers it necessary for these committees to carry out their missions in Iraq, as stated by Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi. More in the following report by Widad 'Alam-al-Din.

['Alam-al-Din] The Iraqi prime minister strongly denied reports on the possibility of manufacturing a nuclear bomb at al-Athir Center. This statement is the first official Iraqi explanation after the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] yesterday issued a decision ordering Iraq to begin destroying the structures and equipment at this center beginning in early April. [passage omitted]

### Negotiator With IAEA Holds News Conference

*JN2603181092 Amman Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Dr. Khalid Ibrahim Sa'id, head of the Iraqi technical team negotiating with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], has emphasized that al-Athir center, some facilities of which were ordered destroyed by the IAEA, serves civilian purposes. He emphasized that the facility is affiliated with the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and supplies Iraq with industrial spare parts and also saves the country's treasury hundreds of millions of dollars in import costs.

Sa'id's remarks were made at a news conference he held this afternoon in Amman, where he stopped off while on his way back to Baghdad from Vienna, where he and his delegation held intensive talks with the IAEA. The session concluded inconclusively Tuesday [24 March].

Dr. Sa'id said that the IAEA's decision was unfair and lacked any objective basis, having been made under political pressure.

He indicated that an international inspection team has visited that center more than 10 times and has obtained samples of its industrial production but failed to produce a single piece of physical evidence that Iraq is using the center for military purposes.

In discussing the options that the Iraqi technical team put to the IAEA, he said: We asked that the center's facilities be sold on the world market and that the proceeds go toward covering the cost of destroying Iraqi weapons, or that they be rendered useless short of destroying them, or that the al-Athir center be placed under constant UN observation to verify its use by Iraq for peaceful applications. But all these options were rebuffed, thus proving that the idea is to return Iraq to the times of backwardness.

He declared that Iraq has pledged to comply with UN resolutions and to cooperate with the United Nations.

### UN's Ekeus Discusses Arms Destruction Progress

*PM2303155492 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 20 Mar 92 p 5*

[Interview with Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN expert team investigating Iraqi arms, by Goran Bohman/ TIDNINGARNAS TELEGRAMBYRA, in New York; date not given]

[Text] New York—"Iraq has around 48,000 missiles armed with chemical warheads. But we have control over this type of weapon of mass destruction," Swedish UN diplomat Rolf Ekeus said.

"There could, however, be an alternative program for the production of nuclear arms which the United Nations has not found, even though it is thought that we also have control over Iraq's nuclear arms."

Ekeus said that the the expert group has found 62 Scud missiles whose range had been extended. According to Ekeus, these have been destroyed. He added, however, that Iraq could have hidden a number of Scud missiles.

Rolf Ekeus is head of the group of experts who on the order of the United Nations are seeing to it that Iraq gets rid of its weapons of mass destruction. In a series of resolutions the United Nations has ordered Iraq to destroy biological weapons, chemical weapons, and nuclear arms.

On Saturday [21 March] another group of experts will fly to Baghdad. They are to ensure that Iraq's ability to extend the range of Scud missiles is permanently prevented.

"I have no reason to suspect that the Iraqis will sabotage our work," Ekeus said, adding that Iraq is permitted to keep missiles with a range of less than 150 km.

If despite everything the Iraqis were to hinder the work of the UN group, diplomats in the Persian Gulf have warned of a new and massive air attack against Iraq by the U.S.-led UN alliance. The U.S. aircraft carrier USS America entered the Persian Gulf at the end of last week and a large force of aircraft has remained in Saudi Arabia since the end of the Kuwait war.

"We have had contacts with the Iraqis the whole time and we have no reason to believe that they will refuse to cooperate this time," Ekeus told TIDNINGARNAS TELEGRAMBYRA over the telephone.

"They know that our mission is to trace weapons of mass destruction and ensure that they are destroyed. They also know that they must follow the UN resolutions to the letter."

Despite the fact that Iraq has enormous quantities of chemical weapons Ekeus believe that the UN experts have full control over their destruction.

The experts have found 48,000 missiles armed with chemical agents and 75,000 which could be armed with chemical weapons but which have not been.

"At present we have a group of experts in Iraq who have destroyed 470 missiles armed with chemical agents," Ekeus said. He admitted that this might seem to be no more than a drop in the ocean.

"But it is the handling dangers which require a lot of time. And the important thing is that we have control over the situation. The Iraqis could have hidden some things, but not many."

Ekeus does not think that the biological weapons represent any problem.

"The Iraqis destroyed most of them even before we began our work."

Rolf Ekeus is convinced that today Iraq is a long way from being able to produce nuclear arms.

"We have succeeded in destroying their nuclear arms program, but they could have an alternative program concealed from us," he said.

"It is very clear, however, that today they do not have the material resources even though the expertise may exist."

This applies above all to access to uranium and plutonium—"that supply has been effectively stopped"—and the capacity to control an explosion.

"The risk will come when the United Nations lifts its sanctions, when the way could be clear for beginning development again," Ekeus said.

What view does he take of Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz' statement in THE WASHINGTON POST that Iraq does not intend to stop developing its destructive weapons?

"That depend on what he means by 'develop.' There are large numbers of people around the world capable of developing an atomic bomb on the drawing board. But building it is a very different matter," Ekeus said. And he thinks that Iraq will now cooperate.

"At least they no longer have any superguns. Those have been destroyed. And we have some surprises for them, but I do not intend to reveal anything about these to them."

## UN Official on Baghdad's Destruction of Missiles

*NC2603165592 Paris AFP in English 1623 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Baghdad, March 26 (AFP)—Iraqi authorities have destroyed a "significant number" of ballistic missiles, the head of U.N. inspection mission said Thursday [26 March].

"We have seen a significant number of destroyed missiles and the team has satisfied itself completely that these missiles are indeed destroyed," Derek Boothby said here after a tour of sites north and south of the capital.

On Wednesday Boothby said his mission had destroyed Scud missile components at sites south and west of Baghdad.

Boothby declined to say how many missiles the Iraqis destroyed Thursday and where they had been buried, adding that this information would be communicated to the U.N. disarmament committee.

"Four days ago, the U.N. ballistics missile inspection team was shown a number of sites to the south and to the north of Baghdad, where the Iraqi authorities said that they had destroyed and buried some of their ballistic missiles and associated equipment," Boothby said.

"Since that time the Iraqi authorities have been excavating that equipment and today they took us to see the result of the excavation," he added.

He said that the members of the team had not personally destroyed the missiles, but saw the weapons and equipment the Iraqis had eliminated in accordance with a statement last July.

Boothby said the work was not easy.

"Excavating and identifying missiles and associated equipment is not an easy task," he said. "Much remains still to be done and the team will continue its work tomorrow (Friday)."

Boothby said the U.N. team planned to leave Sunday, but there were other sites indicated by the Iraqi authorities still to be visited.

## Defense Minister Denies Baghdad Regional Threat

*JN2603192192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA)—Commenting on recent statements made by U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and carried by CNN in which he repeated claims that Iraq poses a threat to the countries of the region, Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, defense minister and Revolution Command Council member, has told INA that these statements clearly reflect the U.S. Administration's tendentious position against Iraq. He noted that Iraq does not pose a threat to its neighbors and that Iraq has always repulsed aggression.

Staff Gen. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid asserted moreover that Iraq has been and will always be a major factor in safeguarding the region's independence and stability.

The defense minister said that the statements by the U.S. secretary of defense reverse the facts. In fact, it is the United States and its protege, Israel, which threaten security and stability in the region. The United States is also continuing to plunder the funds of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states under the pretext of protecting them from illusionary threats.

The defense minister affirmed that the peoples of the region are now aware of the truth behind the United States' ambitions and malicious objectives in the region.

### VOP Derides Secretary Baker's Upcoming Tour

*JN2503213592 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1629 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Text] Dear brothers: James Baker is to make a new tour of the Arab region to activate direct talks between the Zionist entity and concerned Arab parties. James Baker's tour is viewed as if he can work miracles and perform the impossible. What will James Baker do? Will he pledge to elicit Zionist compliance with international legitimacy? Will he, at the least, pledge Zionist implementation of the international resolutions passed by the UN Security Council? Or will he tell those whom he will visit that it is good for the purposes of U.S. presidential elections to project the Washington, Moscow, and Madrid negotiations as talks that have made some progress, and to convince them that the resumption of these direct negotiations in Washington, prior to the Zionist and U.S. elections, is terribly necessary for putting pressure on the Zionists to make them withdraw and get off the Arabs' backs.

Baker is coming to the region to engage in further procrastination and to further beat around the bush when it comes to Arab rights. James Baker is coming to the region out of the fear that some Arab parties might find themselves dragged by the voice of the glaring truth, which is telling them that all that has been going on is merely the Zionists buying time, accommodating the manpower provided by immigrants, and preparing for the new realities sought by the Zionists. James Baker does not want it to be said that the Bush Administration is a failure, a liar, evasive, and deceptive. He wants a certificate from the Arabs concerned; false testimony saying that everything is going on as planned and as scheduled. But the facts show that nothing has gone as planned, except for the fact that Zionism, the tyrannical and occupying force, has obtained official recognition of the Zionist usurpation of Palestine, and that it is on its way to becoming a member of the Arab region with a significant role in political, economic, ecological, water, and cultural activities. Yes, this is Baker's mission. It is a new scandal that makes a mockery of the Palestinian Arab people, the entire Arab nation, and facts as well.

### U.S. Reportedly Opposes Government in Exile

*NC2603152692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] The Qatari newspaper AL-SHARQ reports that the United States has notified the Iraqi opposition factions that it refuses to recognize an Iraqi government in exile because it rejects the idea of governments in exile in general.

Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani had been calling on other opposition parties to enter the liberated areas in northern Iraq to set up a provisional government to represent the Iraqi people at the present stage.

Citing informed Arab sources in Cairo, the newspaper says the U.S. Administration has told the Iraqi opposition that it is willing to consider other alternatives to support the opposition. The sources point out that the U.S. refusal to recognize an Iraqi government in exile has actually affected the opposition's future plans to overthrow dictator Saddam Husayn's regime and has caused some European countries to renege on their earlier plans to recognize a government in exile.

The sources note that the opposition factions had initiated contacts with the United States and a number of European and Arab states to explore the possibility of recognizing an Iraqi government in exile and rendering support to such a government in an effort to change the corrupt regime of the dictator.

### Western 'Plot' Against Iraq, Libya Outlined

*JN2103193492 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 19 Mar 92 p 2*

["Hot Issues" column by Jasim Muhammad Hasan: "Libya—New Victim of America's International Order"]

[Text] The UN resolution to besiege sisterly Libya and punish its people, adopted under obvious U.S., British, and French pressure, cannot be isolated from the developments in the region. It is the logical aftermath of the unjust Western aggression against Iraq, as well as a result of the participation in, and the preparation for, this aggression by some of the traitorous hireling Arab regimes.

We in Iraq have never doubted that another aggression would be launched against another Arab country after the 30-state aggression. We even warned against such an aggression the moment the occupation armies began to desecrate the sacred territory of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]. We repeated time and again that striking Iraq and destroying its progress and strength, under the pretext of the Kuwait events, was in fact the beginning of a comprehensive attack against the Arab nation aimed at imposing domination on the Arab people, robbing their wealth after stripping them of the factors of their strength, and disarming the Arab nation in the face of the Zionist supremacy supported by the West.

While not gloating or issuing judgments, we say that some brothers did not realize the dimensions of Iraq's warning but chose rather to ignore it. Eventually they either fell victim to their own vacillating, opportunist stand or became scapegoats at the door of the UN Security Council and at the mercy of the U.S. whip in the Council, which was transformed into an "operation room" against Iraq in particular and the Arab nation in general.

Setting aside the dimensions of the U.S.-Zionist plot, which was aimed first against Iraq and then against Libya, and taking into consideration the difference in size of the challenge to this plot and the size and results of the aggression—dimensions which cannot be denied

both internationally and on the Arab level—the important thing now is for the Arab rejection forces to rise and rearrange their priorities to face the plot. They should form a front to defuse the effects of the American Security Council resolutions. Naturally, this move should take the form of standing by Iraq and its people, given the unjust aggression which was launched against it and the injustice committed against its people as a result of the aggression and the unfair embargo resolution.

We will not go so far in our wishes and dreams as to demand Arab solidarity or a unified Arab stand at this stage to confront the U.S. plot, not because of the treachery of some Arab regimes and their complete submission to the alleged new international order, but because the distinction between the trenches, which was created by the Mother of Battles, must be continued, prolonged, and strengthened in the interest of the pan-Arab struggle; and because the purity and principles of the historic battle against the nation's enemies must be preserved.

Based on this understanding, the front of rejection and challenge against American domination should have as its pillars the Arab countries that refused to seek the assistance of the foreigner in launching an aggression against Iraq. This should be done not through the official leaderships of these countries, but by activating the role of the masses and granting them the power to take a positive stand alongside Iraq and crack the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people. We must remember that the embargo was primarily adopted by many Arab and Islamic regimes.

Speeches and appeals against this aggression-in-the-making on Libya are no longer productive. They will not affect the fierce American-Atlantic-Zionist onslaught against the Arab nation. However, it is a source of optimism that great Iraq has emerged safe and sound from the battle and has started to rebuild its progress and strength despite the plot and the embargo. It will not take long before Iraq takes command of the faithful gathering and crosses the t's and dots the i's. Until then, the alarm will continue to sound and we must read the Iraqi warning again.

### Commentary Calls for Saddam's Deposition

*NC2503143492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1720 GMT 24 Mar 92*

[Commentary by the Voice of the Iraqi People political editor]

[Text] Certain Arab forces are becoming more and more encouraged to publicly object to threats by the United States, Britain, and France on plans to renew the siege or use military force against Saddam Husayn. They believe that the West wants to impose its hegemony on the Arab world and that it is planning a conspiracy against the Arabs and the Muslims.

This idea amounts to a just cause with an unjust objective. The real conspiracy against the Arabs and the Muslims is that Saddam is still in power. Accepting the existence of a ruler like Saddam—ready to bet his country, people, and resources for the sake of his own ambitions—is more harmful than any foreign military strike. Saddam is ready to bargain and submit. The United States knows very well that Saddam's obsession with power gives it the freedom to tighten the noose round the future Iraq, irrespective of who actually rules it. It exploits Saddam's obsession with power to serve this purpose, which it blatantly announced before the Gulf war began.

Saddam's problem lies in his belief that his safety is more important than the safety of Iraq and its people. He is ready to sell everything to guarantee his personal security. He is only trying to assert his authority by acting as if he is ready for a military blow. If the alliance carries out its threats and destroys the centers of the banned weapons, he will boast that he managed to fool the alliance and hide UN-banned weapons. He will also boast that he defied the West. The price will be a weapon that Saddam does not need and cannot use. Here he is now quickly agreeing to its destruction, after realizing that his existence was threatened because he possessed it.

Saddam has accepted all the West's conditions he once rejected because he has never intended to protect the Iraqi people, territory, or resources and because he is the one who has ruined, and continues to ruin, the homeland. Let those abnormal voices in the Arab world—which are beginning to be heard now claiming that they do not agree to another strike on an Arab country and that they will confront the Western conspiracy whose objective is to tame the Arabs and Muslims—rest assured that the West is capable of deposing Saddam whenever it wants. Saddam means nothing to the United States or its allies, except what he does for them; that is, destroy Iraq, humiliate it, and strip it of its people, resources, and food. This is what Saddam is deliberately doing with great insistence while the West does not fire a single bullet.

We Iraqis read between the lines and realize the truth behind these suspect, opportunist, and selfish calls which every now and then coincide with Saddam's suspect, opportunistic, and selfish desires.

### Al-Anbari Views First Session of UN Oil Talks

*JN2703124292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 27 Mar 92*

[Text] Vienna, 27 Mar (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, head of the Iraqi delegation to the Vienna talks with the United Nations on the resumption of Iraqi oil exports, has said that agreement has been reached with the UN delegation on certain points and that some other points are still under discussion. Al-Anbari added: If an agreement is not reached in this round, then it may be possible to reach an agreement in a next round, which is also to be held in Vienna.

Assessing the first session of the talks, which continued until midnight yesterday, and the atmosphere of the

session, Dr. al-Anbari said that the Iraqi delegation was practical and realistic in its arguments. The UN delegation is now convinced that many of the conditions and complications included in Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 are not needed.

He said: For a long time now Iraq has shown an interest in resuming its oil exports. The Security Council, however, included in its Resolutions 706 and 712 conditions, complications, and restrictions on Iraqi oil exports as if Iraq will be exporting nuclear bombs and not oil.

Al-Anbari explained that the mechanism which the Security Council set up in Resolutions 706 and 712 does not deal with oil as a material whose export requires special rules and formulas which differ from the rules and formulas followed in the export of other items such as cement or vegetables. With oil exports there are international traditions and principles and bilateral agreements between the exporter and the importer which govern the export of oil. In addition, new developments concerning exports may emerge, thus necessitating very swift and sometimes secret action to not make these influence supply and demand and consequently prices.

The Iraqi delegation to the talks includes Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department of International Organizations and Conferences; Dr. Fadil 'Uthman, Iraq's governor in OPEC; Dr. Faruq al-'Ubaydi of the Trade Ministry; and Muhammad al-Shadidi, an Oil Ministry expert.

### Arab League Performance, Stand on Iraq Criticized

*JN2303210692 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Mar 92*

[Text] Brothers: On 22 March 1945, representatives of seven Arab countries signed the Arab League Charter in Cairo. This reminds us of the Arab League's age—47. Yes, the Arab League is now 47 years old. Does this indicate maturity, or does it speak of failure and impasse? Since its foundation, the Arab League, in fact, has come in for so much criticism that even naive people have made some sarcastic hints and remarks.

There are reasons for this, surely. Prominent and most evident of them all is that the league's resolutions have remained just ink on paper. Because of the problem of unanimity, the resolutions have not been binding: Either unanimous approval, or non-implementation, freezing, maneuvering, obstruction, paralyzing, inaction, and many other descriptions.

The Arabs have faced serious and fateful events, and yet they failed to affect that stockpile of routine and bureaucracy [break in transmission] despite the pressure of events and issues and the exacerbation of Arab problems, and despite the most pressing need to confront—not to escape from—challenges and problems, the Arab League registered no progress to speak of. Indeed, it almost became part of a heritage, preserved only to save face, and because it is a possible formula for effective Arab unity in the future. Through ostensible adherence to the Arab League, enthusiasm for it, and speedy joining of its extraordinary meetings, any Arab regime can defend itself against any pan-Arab accusations that it obstructed or fought Arab unity.

But the pressing question is: What did the Arab League do when an Arab solution to the developments of 2 August 1990 was obstructed? What did it do when members of the league violated its charter and invited the American-Zionist-Atlantic invasion, joined foreigners against the Arabs, fought their Arab brothers under the command of the foreigners, and enabled the enemies to attack a power that belongs not only to Iraq, but to all Arabs? And contrary to the spirit and text of the Arab League Charter, those members enabled the enemies to occupy Arab lands under the pretext of security agreements, and they turned parts of the Arab land into centers of threat to pan-Arab security.

And the question is: Is the blockade against Iraq legal? Was it legal from the beginning, and is it legal now that Iraq has withdrawn from Kuwait and implemented the relevant resolutions? But above all, are those living under the blockade not Arabs, toward whom the Arab nation has obligations?

A few days ago, Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid warned that the Arab nation is currently facing numerous fateful challenges and threats. He said Arab solidarity is the only way to maintain the interests of the nation, the future of its generations, and the elements of its national security.

But since Arab solidarity is the only alternative, as the knowledgeable secretary general knows, should it remain without explanation, clarification, and indeed, without distinct features? On what basis, and for what purpose should this solidarity be established? What are the boundaries of the taboos after all that happened?

As spelled out by the secretary general, the main issues and challenges are: The Palestine question and the Arab-Zionist conflict, the growing food gap, the risks to the flow of waters into Arab countries, the technology gap, and the financial resources needed to achieve economic and social development. But where is the aggression against Iraq? Where is the simpler issue—the blockade? What is the role of the Arab League? The major question remains: What kind of Arab solidarity is being sought? Where is solidarity, in any of its forms? Where is the Arab League? And where is its charter, 47 years after signing it?

### Iran Blamed for Delaying POW's Return

*JN2603080592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0737 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA)—Dr. Sa'dun Khalifah, head of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, has said that Iran is responsible for delaying the handover of Iraqi POW's held in Iran.

He told AL-THAWRAH today that Iraq met all its obligations and made the necessary arrangements for the

transfer of POW's as agreed with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Geneva.

On Iran's closure of the ICRC office in Tehran, the deportation of the office staff, and the effect of this on the transfer of the POW's, Dr. Khalifah said: "This will certainly affect the transfer of POW's. We are waiting for further details about the ICRC position and the steps we should take."

### Iranians, Turks Said To Smuggle Equipment, Arms

*JN2703094192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 27 Mar 92*

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Mar (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has reported that Iranian elements have infiltrated into Bikufah [placename as received] region in Dahuk Governorate in northern Iraq, collected all agricultural machinery and harvesters in the villages in the region with the aid of a traitor, and smuggled them to Iran.

The paper today reports that the agricultural machinery is estimated at 62 tractors, 57 sowing machines, and 63 harvesters of various types.

The paper cites 'Ali Faris, a resident of Zakho border district, as saying that various weapons and ammunition were delivered across the border by Turkish military personnel to Jalal Talabani's gangs. These included Israeli-made Uzi submachine guns. An eyewitness asserts that one member of these Turkish military groups was speaking to one of his colleagues in Hebrew.

It has also been confirmed that quantities of tea were smuggled to Turkey across the river near the al-Khalil border bridge. The tea is part of the rations supplied by the Trade Ministry to citizens in Dahuk and Zakho according to the ration card system.

The paper says it received information from Dahuk and Zakho that a meeting between Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's treacherous organizations and the Democratic Party of Kurdistan has failed to curb the wave of crimes in Zakho which resulted in the death of a number of defenseless Kurdish citizens.

The paper explains that the failure of this meeting coincided with growing and intense Turkish attacks against Turkish border villages. These attacks resulted in the destruction of these villages and the deaths of a large number of inhabitants.

### Foreign Ministry Statement Supports Libya

*JN2603155892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA)—Iraq has emphasized the importance of adopting a clear Arab stand in support of the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah and rejecting any punitive measures that might be taken by the Security Council against it.

This came in a statement made today to INA by Taha Yasin al-Basri, chief of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry, following Iraq's participation in the recent Arab League Council emergency meeting in Cairo, which was devoted to threats against Libya by the U.S.-British-French alliance over accusations against Libya related to the U.S. and French aircraft incidents over Lockerbie in 1988 and Niger in 1989.

The chief of the Arab Department added that the episode currently being implemented against fraternal Libya is the second of its kind following the implementation of the first and stronger episode against Iraq in the 30-state U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression, in accordance with unjust resolutions issued by the Security Council to destroy and crush any honest Arab prospect for progress and development.

He pointed out that the participation of the Iraqi delegation in the Arab League Council's emergency meeting made a strong impact in urging the Arab delegations to take the strongest stands in support of fraternal Libya in its confrontation with the aggression forces. As a result of this many heads of Arab delegations asked to adopt the same approach advocated by Iraq and to reject any measures that might be taken by the Security Council against Libya.

Taha Yasin al-Basri reviewed the stands of some Arab parties which are known for their subservience and agentry, especially the stand of the representative of the Saudi regime who tried with might and main to obstruct such an approach toward Libya which is required on the nationalist and pan-Arab levels. The representative of the Saudi regime also tried to obstruct the mere reference to U.S.-British-French threats or to the rejection of any resolution regarding sanctions that might be passed by the Security Council. The representative of this regime, al-Basri added, strangely opposed even the idea of adding a clause referring to solidarity with fraternal Libya to any paragraph of the resolution.

As for the handing over of two Libyan nationals who the United States, France, and Britain want, the chief of the Arab Department said that they do not have the right to demand that Libya hand them over because they are Libyan nationals who are subject to Libya's laws and Constitution. Laws everywhere, he added, do not allow or permit the handover of nationals to any other state, even if they are subject to legal accusations. Such nationals, he said, are usually subject to the laws and courts of their own country. Because Libyan national law does not permit its citizens to be handed over, Libya has the right to not give its citizens to any other state but rather to try them in its own legal courts. This is what Libya said it would do, in addition to the fact that Libya has had recourse to the International Court of Justice, which is a correct legal measure and course of action.

Taha Yasin al-Basri concluded by noting that the United States and its allies have not taken all the legal facts into consideration because they have never respected international law. They have always sought to put pressure on the Security Council by using all possible methods and have turned it into a tool to peddle unjust resolutions

against nations which seek to achieve justice, right, and peace, under the guise and pretext of international law and legitimacy, which they employ to serve only their own interests.

### Barzan al-Tikriti Denies Theft of Kuwaiti Cars

*PM2503120892 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 22 Mar 92 p 4*

["Text" of letter to SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI Chief Editor Muhammd al-Rumayhi from Barzan al-Takriti, "Iraq's permanent representative to the UN office in Geneva," 19 March 1992]

[Text] To Muhammad al-Rumayhi, chief editor of SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI.

Subject: Denial of lies.

We refer you to what was stated on the back page of your newspaper on Monday 16 March 1992, and provide you with an unequivocal reply to your lies and fabrications—a reply which His Excellency Ambassador Barzan al-Takriti, Iraq's permanent representative to the UN office in Geneva, has kindly provided for you to publish in your newspaper, if you have the courage and honor to do so, or in order for you and your masters to benefit from it; perhaps you will benefit and wake up.

Enclosures: Text of the reply.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT and the disastrous continued absent-mindedness.

I read with resentment what SAWT AL-KUWAYT said on Monday 16 March, and I say immediately that if the person in charge has enough courage and (...) to publish my reply, I am prepared to submit immediately the documents pertaining to the car in question and to the other cars belonging to Iraq's permanent UN mission in Geneva as a prompt way of refuting the published lies.

Since 2 August I have been monitoring and scrutinizing what I see and hear about you particularly influential people. I have noticed your unbalanced reactions since 2 August 1990 is exactly like your behavior and way of thinking before that date. So I made your behavior a subject of discussion, as though I were a third party, because of the circumstances that affected you and others in the region at that time. Sometimes I attributed your behavior to psychological factors, imagining myself in the position of those concerned there. I do this often, whenever I can.

I expected this behavior to be corrected and the absent-mindedness to be dispelled (...). It is difficult for me and others like me to speculate this time what expectations [taqu'at] this will cause. So it would not surprise me—and it is you that have caused yourself and others the things that have happened in various respects—if you continued your error by publishing lies such as that about my seizing two of your cars!

You should know, you good-for-nothing, that if Mercedes cars are an objective and aim for you, they mean nothing to me either materially or morally, though I am not a millionaire or billionaire like some among you. Did you, you (...), forget what was said about me by you and others? And do you know, you son of (...), may God disgrace you, that Iraq is the cradle of civilization, wealth, and generosity, and not an insignificant state at the end of the world that cannot buy a $50,000 car, whose purchase by its embassies represents something strange that attracts attention and raises questions?

Be informed—though this might wreck your nerves—that both the description and the vendors of the cars owned by the permanent Iraqi mission in Geneva are known. I repeat that if you are honorable and undertakes to publish what we send you, then I will send the documents for the following cars:

1—One Mercedes 300, 1989,
2—One Mercedes 230, 1991,
3—One Mercedes 500, 1985,
4—One BMW 735, 1983,
5—One BMW 750, 1989.

These are official cars belonging to the mission, not to me personally.

As for the repeated assertion both by you and by other from (...), whenever my name is mentioned, that I am [Saddam's] half brother, what is strange about that in the Islamic religion and the traditions of the Arabs, to whom you certainly do not belong? Do the Islamic religion or Arab traditions prohibit a widow from marrying one of her relatives or one her deceased husband's brothers? You have the answer, although you are (...). And in order to make you, you (...), understand and to enlarge your knowledge I put to you some questions, most of which you certainly cannot answer:

—Does King Hassan II have any half brothers or not?

—Did the late shah of Iran have half brothers or not?

—Did the third Caliph 'Uthman Bin-'Affan, known as the Dhu-al-Nurayn, have half brothers or not?

—Did al-Hajjaj Bin-Yusuf al-Thaqafi have half brothers or not?

—Did the Arab leader Sa'd Bin-Abi-Waqqas have half brothers or not?

—Did Mu'awiyah Bin-Abi-Sufyan have half brothers or not?

I do not want to go on, because it is a long list. But this is enough to remind (...) like you.

Last, I feel that catastrophe surrounds you, and that there are two reasons which for this: First, you have learned nothing from what happened, nor have you forgotten anything.

Second, your are so impotent that you cannot rise to the level of the postwar stage.

Perhaps you and your masters will learn from these facts, hold back and wake up.

Geneva, Thursday 19 March 1992

Barzan al-Takriti.

### Assembly Denies Government 'Siege' on Kurds

*JN2603170592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1617 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA)—Iraq has asserted that it is fully capable of providing all food supplies and public services required by Kurdish citizens in the northern region provided that the foreign presence and the gangs of sabotage and treason are removed from the north of beloved Iraq.

This came in a statement issued today by the Iraqi National Assembly in response to a resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 12 March concerning the Kurds in Iraq and the so-called "siege imposed on the Kurds."

The National Assembly statement says that Iraq is also able to impose law and order in a manner which ensures the rights of Kurdish citizens in their homeland of Iraq, which allows them to perform their duties, and which protects them from the acts perpetrated by rioters and saboteurs.

The statement added: The Iraqi Government wants and is truly seeking to deliver food supplies and medicine as soon as possible to the northern region, which is inhabited by the sons of our Kurdish people. However, the factions of treason, rebellion, and sabotage, which are agents for foreigners in northern Iraq, are preventing this delivery to give the impression that the Iraqi Government is imposing "a siege on the Kurds," which is a false, mendacious, and baseless suggestion and claim. In fact, these factions are harming Iraqi Kurds and are carrying out sabotage in an inhuman, immoral, and illegal manner.

As for the European Parliament's decision requesting the Iraqi Government to provide technical assistance for the so-called "elections planned in the north," the Iraqi National Assembly explained that above all else this represents blatant interference in Iraq's internal affairs and is an attempt to violate its sovereignty. This is because the Kurds in Iraq have a Legislative Council, Executive Council, and representatives in the Iraqi National Assembly who were elected through fair and free elections and who are still carrying out their legal and normal duties.

The Kurds in Iraq are completely aware of the truth about the great achievements carried out by the glorious 17-30 July Revolution for the Iraqis in general and the Kurds in particular, in a manner that promotes Iraq's national unity and strengthens the long-standing historical ties which bind the Arabs and Kurds and other minorities in Iraq. The statement noted that these long-standing ties of sincere national unity will not be shaken by such lies and claims which are raised from time to time while at the same time other countries persecute their Kurdish citizens and do not give them their minimum legitimate rights.

### Radio Reports Northern Attack by Regime

*NC2603170592 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Yesterday at 1100 an enemy force attacked the defensive positions of the Kurdistan Front peshmergas in (Chaluk) village, which is located between (Gayr) and Aski Kalak. A Kurdistan Front joint peshmerga force composed of peshmergas from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the Socialist Kurdish Party, the Kurdish Toilers Party, and the Iraqi Communist Party onfronted the enemy force and forced it to retreat. The enemy force left behind one mortar, one RPG, four Kalashnikov rifles, and one vehicle. Following its retreat the enemy as usual shelled the civilians in (Chaluk), injuring one citizen.

In another development, two helicopter gunships yesterday strafed the villages of Dalo and (Rahima Quta) in Karkuk Governorate's (Shawan) District.

### Kurdistan National Assembly Law Issued

*NC2603153092*

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic at 1610 GMT on 25 March 1992 carries the 32-minute announcer-read text of "Law No. 1 for the year 1992 on the Iraqi Kurdistan National Assembly," issued by the political leadership of the Kurdistan National Front [KNF] in response to "the necessity to serve the interests of the Iraqi Kurdistan people."

The law stipulates that the National Assembly will include in its membership "one representative for every 30,000 people," adding: "The Assembly speaker, secretary, and chairmen of the permanent committees will be volunteers."

According to the law, "upon a KNF decision, a higher panel will be set up to supervise elections in Iraqi Kurdistan," and to "determine the constituencies in the governorates, provided that the population in each constituency is between 30,000 and 150,000; to set up ad hoc committees for the constituencies to supervise elections; and to give instructions to facilitate the election process and determine the date and method for selecting the chairmen and members of the election committees." The law gives every candidate the "right to be represented on the committee."

The law allocates seats to all minorities in Iraqi Kurdistan according to a specific ratio.

The law says that "the date for the elections will be determined by a KNF decision that will be published in the media one month before the elections."

"Should the Assembly's term expire or the Assembly itself be dissolved, the head of the executive authority will issue a decision within 15 days after the expiration or the dissolution, determining a date for electing a new Assembly," the law stipulates.

The law further says: "Every constituency will be furnished with an alphabetical list of voters, which includes the voters' occupations, addresses, and the date and place in which they will vote." These lists will be pinned on notice boards in the polling stations, so that the citizens can be notified at least 15 days before the determined date of the elections.

The law stipulates that a voter must be "a citizen of Iraqi Kurdistan, 18 or older."

Touching on conditions for candidacy, the law says that "every candidate must be a citizen and resident of Iraqi Kurdistan, sane, at least 30 years old, able to read and write well, and must not have been convicted of unethical or corrupt activities or deliberate murder or theft, and must not have taken part in the crimes committed or planned by the oppressive authority in Kurdistan."

Article 24 of the law stipulates: "The candidacy application and the necessary documents must be presented to the chairman of the higher committee 10 days before the elections. The committee will make a decision on the application within 24 hours and notify the applicant within two days. The applicant can contest the higher committee's decision at the Kurdistan court of appeals within two days of being notified of the decision. The court of appeals will issue a binding decision within two days."

Section Five of Article 25 of the law stipulates: "The higher committee will publish the names of the candidates in the media and will distribute the lists of candidates to all polls at least 12 days before the voting."

Article 32 stipulates: "The president of the poll will be responsible for maintaining order at his station. He is authorized to adopt whatever measures he finds necessary to guarantee the soundness of the voting process. Internal security forces and armed men will not be allowed to enter the polling place unless they obtain permission from the committee chairman."

The law further says that a candidate will win Assembly membership when he obtains an absolute majority of votes. The higher committee will announce the names of candidates who win Assembly membership.

Article 38 gives the higher committee "the right to annul elections in any polling station if a case of cheating or tampering with the results is proven."

Article 39 gives every candidate the right to express his views "without being questioned about them during the performance of his job in the Assembly." Article 40 says: "It is impermissible to harass or arrest any member because of a crime he commits during the Assembly's session, unless he is caught red-handed," or to arrest a member on charges of a crime without obtaining the Assembly speaker's permission, unless the member is caught red-handed.

Article 41 explains that the monthly salary of the Assembly speaker, deputy speaker, secretary, and members will be determined by the Assembly. Article 42 touches on the calculation of years of service for promotions, step increases, and pensions.

Article 43 of the law outlines cases in which Assembly membership will expire, including the expiration of the Assembly's term or its dissolution, a member's resignation, the absence of any of the conditions required for membership, a member's unexcused absence from three consecutive sessions, and finally, a member's death.

Article 44 deals with filling vacancies in the Assembly.

Article 56 outlines the Assembly's tasks as "passing laws, approving agreements, and settling fateful issues involving the Iraqi Kurdish people; determining the relationship with the central authority; naming the head of the executive authority who is authorized to select the members of his authority from among the Assembly's members; granting or withdrawing confidence from the executive authority; approving the general budget and development plans; exercising control over the executive authority; setting up investigative committees; developing the Assembly's by-law, determining its authority, and appointing its employees; setting up permanent committees from among its members in accordance with the by-law; developing the basis for accusing and trying its members should they violate their oath; and making decisions on appeals contesting the validity of membership."

Article 57 touches on punishment for crimes committed during the voting process.

Article 60 stipulates: "The Assembly's decisions will be published in a special journal and will be effective on the date of publication." Article 61 concludes that this law "will take effect on the date of publication in the KNF newspaper."

## Citizens, 'Saboteurs' Clash in Al-'Amadiyah

*JN2403181392 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 Mar 92 p 1*

[Excerpt] Al-'Amadiyah—Armed clashes have taken place between citizens and saboteurs in al-'Amadiyah area after the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's [PUK] organizations released a leaflet, signed by PUK regional officer Jamal 'Izzu Ja'far, forbidding citizens from celebrating Nowruz and asking them to raise slogans against national unity.

An AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondent in the northern region reports that the citizens defied this ban and clashed with the saboteurs. [passage omitted]

## Press Warns Kurds Against Undermining Security

*JN2103103792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 21 Mar 92*

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Mar (INA)—Iraqi newspapers warn agents in northern Iraq against the serious consequences of their treasonous conduct. The papers warned them not to become docile tools ready to implement schemes devised by foreign powers to fragment the national unity of the Iraqi people.

In their editorials today, which commented on the Nowruz [Persian New Year's Day] festivals, the newspapers AL-JUMHURIYAH, AL-QADISIYAH, and AL-'IRAQ agree that foreign powers have used these treasonous cliques to humiliate Iraqi Kurds and abort the national gains and rights endorsed in the 21 March 1970 statement at a time when Kurds in other parts of the region are living under circumstances of hateful and chauvinistic repression.

For its part, AL-JUMHURIYAH sheds light on the overall gains and accomplishments guaranteed to Iraqi Kurds in the aforementioned statement, saying: This took place at a time when Kurds in neighboring countries continue to experience tragic conditions and agony under the heavy burden of suffering, denial of rights, and total extermination of their identity.

AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses sorrow and regret over the pain and agony being experienced by our Kurdish people in extremely adverse circumstances amid a climate of repression, corruption, lawlessness, crime, and anarchy under the rule of outlaws who are being manipulated by foreigners, who are eating the foreigners' crumbs, and who are implementing their schemes to humiliate Kurds, undermine their dignity, steal their resources, and trade their rights.

The paper pledges that the revolution will defend the rights and gains ensured to our Kurdish countrymen, and also that it will chop off any malicious hand that might attempt to enfeeble or undermine these accomplishments. It further urges our Kurdish people's sons to rise up against this handful of tyrannical traitors and kick them across the border.

As for the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, organ of the Ministry of Defense, it says: The agents, bandits, dwarves, and foreigners' lackeys, must repent and halt their evil endeavors to bring foreigners to Iraqi Kurdistan. The paper stresses that these agents will only have themselves to blame for the failure to do so.

Elaborating further on the warning addressed to these agents, AL-QADISIYAH says: Our valiant army is maintaining its vigilance, watchfulness, and high readiness to end any attempt that could be made in this regard by the foreigners' subversive slaves.

The paper underscores the real interests of Iraqi Kurds, saying: These traitors and their masters must realize that the autonomy rule, which ensured the unity of the Iraqi people and their country's territorial integrity, is the proper means for bringing about a secure and decent life for our people in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region. Besides, they must realize that our proud Iraqi people will not grant foreigners and their agents the opportunity to use the Kurdish issue as a bargaining and blackmail card at the expense of the people's higher interests.

AL-QADISIYAH warns those who are lying in wait for Iraq's security and sovereignty, saying: Our valiant Army and our Armed Forces are fully prepared to stop any attempt to undermine our people's security in all areas of our lofty Iraq.

The paper notes that our audacious combatants are persistently, consistently, and diligently working to strengthen their defensive positions. They would, the paper adds, be the incisive hand that will be ready to chop off the heads of saboteurs who might entertain the notion of approaching these positions or undermining their security.

As regards the newspaper AL-'IRAQ, it provides a historical background for the Kurds' sufferings in various eras, saying: Throughout the dark centuries and epochs, the Kurds have continued to struggle against tyrannical powers. Thus, the Kurds' aspirations have remained out of reach. The dream of successive generations came true only when the 17-30 July revolution erupted, and under the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, architect of the 21 March statement and the autonomy rule law.

AL-'IRAQ feels sorrow and bitterness "because Nauruz this year is engulfed by sadness and enveloped by gloomy feelings that have nothing to do with the festival of happiness and rejoicing to which the Kurds have grown accustomed."

The paper is confident that the time for ending these abnormal situations and getting rid of those causing them has approached and become imminent to take intruders and evildoers to task.

## Paper on Growing Kurdish Opposition in Turkey

*JN2603174192 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 24 Mar 92 p 1*

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] Kurdish opposition to the racist policy pursued by the Turkish Government against Kurdish nationalism in Turkey is growing. Independent statistics show that at least 15 million Kurds live in the eastern provinces, in what is known as Turkey's Kurdistan.

Kurdish rejection of the chauvinistic policies in Turkey is not new. It is over 90 years old. Today, the rejectionist Kurdish movement in Turkey is assuming broader dimensions. It advocates national legitimate rights and is spreading all over Turkey's Kurdistan. According to news reports, many Kurdish parties and groups are leading this rejectionist Kurdish movement. The most influential of all is the leftist Kurdish Workers Party, PKK.

The course of events in the Kurdish region in Turkey indicates that the Kurds there have begun to prepare for a long struggle to attain their national rights. That struggle has two aspects: A political one, based on demonstrations and sit-ins, and a military one. We believe that this spring and the coming summer will be hot on the mountains of Turkish Kurdistan.

In light of all these events, one important question remains: What is the United Nations doing about the Kurds in Turkey? Plus, what are the human rights organization doing? This question may be embarrassing to many of the leading political charlatans and hypocrites in certain UN quarters who were forced, under the concepts of the "new world order," to measure things according to criteria benefiting the United States and Great Britain.

But, can this falsehood stand in the face of the bloodbaths and the contradictions brought about by the policies pursued by advocates of the "new world order?"

## 'Texts' of Decrees Awarding Medals to Officers

*JN2603123792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Mar 92*

["Texts" of presidential decrees awarding medals of valor to a number of "heroes" of the Air Force and the Air Defense and Missile Force and officers from various corps and military and media escort of the president of the republic—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential decree:

In appreciation of the courage displayed by the following fighters to protect the nation's honor, dignity, and pride in the Mother of Battles in defense of great Iraq, and based on the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we have decreed the following:

1. The fighters listed below shall be granted two Medals of Valor:
Staff Pilot Major General Qasa' Tawfiq Rashid Rushdi.
Staff Major General 'Adnan Naji Habib.
Major General Eng. 'Izz-al-Din Mahmud al-Hafiz.
Staff Pilot Major General Fahd 'Abd-al-Baqi Muhammad.
Brigadier General Faruq Khattab 'Umar.
Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abbas Tayih.
Staff Brigadier General Khalis 'Abd-al-Hadi 'Abd-al-Jabbar.
Staff Brigadier General Muzaffar Husayn 'Abd-al-Rahman.
Brigadier General Muwaffaq Khalil Isma'il.
Staff Brigadier General Basim Ibrahim 'Izzat.
Brigadier General Eng. Tahir Musa Salih.
Brigadier General Salih Khalil Ibrahim.
Colonel Mut'ib Hilal Hamad.
Colonel Eng. Khalil Ahmad Khalil Mustafa.
Staff Colonel Jalil Khalaf al-Shuwayyil.
Colonel Kamal Husayn 'Ali 'Abd-al-Karim.
Staff Pilot Colonel Ibrahim Hazza' Salim.
Colonel Najm 'Abdallah Kurayyim.
Staff Colonel Ahmad 'Ajaj Mijwal.
Colonel Khalaf Jasim Hammad.
Pilot Colonel Faysal Nu'man 'Iyadah Muhammad.
Colonel Eng. Salim Muhammad Taha.
Colonel Falah Ibrahim Ahmad.
Lieutenant Colonel Jalal Hasan Hatim.
Staff Lieutenant Colonel Hasan Karim Khutayyir.
Lieutenant 'Adnan Jawad 'Ali.

2. The fighters listed below shall be granted the Medal of Valor.
Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah Hamad 'Abd.
Staff Brigadier General Isma'il Mahmud 'Abd.
Staff Brigadier General 'Amir Hasan Salih.
Brigadier General Talal Ma'yuf Yunus.
Colonel Husayn Muhammad 'Abd-al-Latif.
Staff Colonel Fadil Musa al-Suhayli.
Staff Colonel 'Abd-al-Karim 'Abd-al-Amir Habib.
Colonel Labib Ibrahim Ahmad.
Colonel [name indistinct]
Colonel Riyad Mahmud Ibrahim.
Colonel Salih Dawud Hatim.
Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Raja Salim.
Colonel Hamid Mahdi Sakran Muhaymid.
Staff Colonel Hafiz 'Abbas 'Ali.
Staff Colonel Subhi Fadil Lutayyif.
Colonel Hammudi al-Shayi' Jabr.
Colonel Barbuti Hadi Hatim.
Lieutenant Colonel Hamid Muhammad 'Abd Husayn.
Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Ibrahim Mahdi.
Major Jamal Siddiqah Muhammad, physician.
Major Hafiz Muhammad Farhan, physician.
Captain Muhammad Tu'mah 'Uthman, physician.
Competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential decree:

In appreciation of the courage displayed by the following fighters to protect the nation's honor, dignity, and pride in the Mother of Battles in defense of great Iraq, and based on the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we have decreed the following:

The fighters listed below shall be granted the Medal of Valor:
Captain Sabir 'Abd-al-'Aziz Haddushi.
1st Lieutenant Sabbar Mustafa 'Abdallah.
Lieutenant Rafid 'Abd Ibrahim.
Lieutenant Najm 'Abdallah 'Abd.
Lieutenant Faris Yasin 'Umar.
Lieutenant Ahmad Fadil Hasan.
Sa'd Razzuq Sulayman.

Competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In appreciation of the courage displayed by the following fighters to protect the nation's honor, dignity, and pride in the Mother of Battles in defense of great Iraq, and based on

the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we have decreed the following:

The following fighters shall be granted the Medal of Valor:
Ibrahim Fathi Haydar.
'Ali Muhammad Hasan al-Zubaydi.
Faysal Ibrahim Shukr.
Tariq Yasin Faysal.
Jarallah 'Abdallah Mahmud.
'Imad Isma'il 'Abbas.
Mundhir Nu'man Muhammad.
Muhammad Khalil Ibrahim.
Jamal Dawud Sallum.
Jamal Ahmad Hasan.
Muthanna Yunus Muhammad.
Sa'd 'Abbud Hirz.

Competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In appreciation of the courage displayed by the following fighters to protect the nation's honor, dignity, and pride in the heroic confrontation of the chapter of treason and treachery in the Mother of Battles in defense of great Iraq, and based on the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we have decreed the following:

1. Fighter Comrade Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad al-'Ali, member of the leadership of Khalid Bin-al-Walid branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, shall be granted the Medal of Valor.

2. The fighters listed below shall be granted two Medals of Valor:

Comrade Mahmud Shakir Hamid, member of the leadership of the Wasit branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Brigadier General Khalil Ibrahim Khaz'al, former director of the Wasit police department.

Colonel Haqqi Isma'il Nusayyif, former director of the Wasit Governorate security department.

Khalid Yahya Jabir, former director of the Wasit Governorate intelligence department.

3. Falih Ishsha' Fulayyih Qandil shall be granted a Medal of Valor.

Competent Ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

## Baghdad Stock Exchange Opened To 'Boost' Economy

*JN2303173592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Mar 92*

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi opened the Baghdad Stock Exchange today. The inauguration ceremony began with the recitation of al-Fatihah [first chapter of the Koran] for the souls of the martyrs, the most noble of us all.

Addressing the ceremony, Finance Minister Majid 'Abd Ja'far said the market will be active, and will provide the appropriate climate and mechanism to encourage individuals and establishments to exchange shares of companies and bonds of financial and production institutions. It will also market shares of new companies. The market's activity, he said, would help boost the foundations of our national economy.

It should be mentioned that in August last year, the Revolution Command Council issued the Baghdad Stock Exchange Law, which provides for the establishment of a market for selling and buying securities. The inauguration ceremony was attended by a number of ministers, the chief of the Audit Bureau, the governor of the Iraqi Central Bank, and a number of specialists in financial and economic affairs.

## Free Distribution of Black Oil, Asphalt Amended

*JN2403172192 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 Mar 92 p 8*

[Text] Baghdad—The Oil Ministry has decided to stop supplying fuel oil [mazut] and asphalt to state agencies free of charge as of 1 April. However, it will continue to supply the private sector with fuel oil free of charge from the Bayji and al-Basrah refineries, but black oil from the al-Durah refinery will have to be paid for. The ministry also stopped supplying free asphalt to the private sector from all refineries.

## Minister Olmert on Failure To Meet With Quayle

*TA2703083492*

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 27 March carries a six-minute live interview with Health Minister Ehud Olmert, on the phone from Washington, conducted by moderators Mikha Friedman and Gilat Levi, on the subject of his failure to meet with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle.

The minister is asked to give his own version of the events, in light of the denials from Quayle's office that it had turned down Olmert's request for a meeting with the U.S. vice president and of the State Department spokesman's denial of an administration directive banning meetings with Israeli officials. Olmert says: "First of all, I did not issue any statement about requesting a meeting and about my request being turned down. Therefore, you cannot refer to any statement or allegation I made."

Olmert goes on to say that during the preparations for the visit, he asked Israeli Health Ministry officials to request a meeting with the U.S. vice president. While noting that he is in the United States at the invitation of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and not to hold political meetings, Olmert says he sought a meeting with Quayle, "who is a personal friend of mine and with whom I have met on several occasions in his current capacity, and I definitely thought we should meet as a matter of routine. I suppose the U.S. Department of Health referred the request to the State Department. We received an answer, on which I will not elaborate. The outcome is that no meeting was held this time, contrary to previous occasions. I do not think I have to reveal to you the contents of the official answer relayed to us by the U.S. Department of Health."

Asked to comment on newspaper reports that he had been told by the Americans that "there is no sense in processing such requests in view of the directive not to meet with visiting Israeli officials," Olmert replies: "I do not think I was quoted as saying that." Asked whether he stands by the remarks attributed to him about the existence of such a directive, Olmert says: "I neither do nor do not stand by such a statement. Since I made no such statement, I do not have to stand by it."

Asked to explain why he did not meet with Quayle, the minister says: "I do not have to explain. I received an answer, and it was enough for me."

Asked to comment on Yosi Ben-Aharon's remarks that Olmert was refused a meeting with Quayle because of Olmert's criticism of President Bush, Olmert says: "Seeing that I did not make any allegations, I do not have to refute a reaction to them. Moreover, I am not in the habit of arguing in public with officials who make allegations, and I do not think I should argue with or comment on the remarks by some official in the Prime Minister's Office."

Asked whether Quayle did not meet with him because he has something personal against him, Olmert says: "Such a claim is absurd."

Asked whether he is asserting that the U.S. Administration did not issue such a directive, Olmert says: "I am neither making such a claim nor asserting the opposite."

### Insists Boycott in Effect

*TA2703053992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 27 Mar 92*

[Text] Despite U.S. denials, Health Minister Ehud Olmert insists that U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle did not meet with him because of the administration's decision to avoid meetings with Israeli officials. Olmert told reporters last night that U.S. health officials were censured for disclosing the boycott.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler denied that the administration had barred officials from meeting with Israelis. She said the State Department does not tell the vice president with whom to meet.

### Shamir Said 'Furious'

*TA2703095892 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Mar 92 p 1*

[Report by Hemi Shalev and by Drora Perl in Washington]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is furious about the commotion created by Health Minister Ehud Olmert after he failed to coordinate a meeting with Vice President Dan Quayle, political sources in Jerusalem said last night. Jewish sources in Washington who deal with various aspects of Israeli-U.S. relations reacted by saying that Olmert caused a grave and superfluous diplomatic incident and that the cost of this election gimmick might be that relations with the United States, which are already fraught with tension and difficulties, will be endangered.

Senior political sources in Jerusalem said last night that growing numbers of international bodies "are drawing conclusions" from the descriptions by Israeli ministers about the depth of the crisis with the United States and that, in the very near future, the situation will also be reflected in Israel's relations with other countries. In that sense, they said, Olmert's "provocation" caused not insignificant political damage.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 27 March in a page A1 report by Uri Nir, 'Aqiva Eldar, and Eytan Rabin, says that on Wednesday, "Eytan Bentzur, Foreign Ministry deputy director general in charge of North America, urged that Israeli-U.S. relations be left out of the election campaign. 'They are a valuable asset which must be preserved, and any superfluous declarations should be avoided,' Bentzur said."]

"Chutzpah and political hooliganism" is how a senior official in Jerusalem last night described Olmert's charges that Quayle's alleged refusal to meet with him is a sign of a further deterioration in relations between the two countries, stemming from a clear-cut directive from the State Department. The official said that the tendency

by several Likud ministers, including Olmert, to exploit the crisis in Israeli-U.S. ties to advance the Likud's election campaign is "simply shocking." The official added that these ministers "are playing with our last remaining asset."

Jerusalem sources said last night that there is no U.S. policy of not meeting with Israeli public figures but that it is possible that Quayle's refusal to meet with Olmert is due to, among other things, the health minister's recent blunt utterances about the administration. "Two or three more remarks like that, and he will not get a visa into the United States," a source in Jerusalem said. The source noted that no U.S. secretary has ever allowed himself to speak about Israel in the sharp manner that Likud ministers have used recently when speaking about the United States.

Foreign Ministry sources said that Olmert's request to meet with Quayle was an impudent breach of protocol from the outset. They doubted whether Quayle meets with any health ministers and also pointed out that Jerusalem does not arrange high-level meetings for visiting health ministers.

The sources also ridiculed Olmert's claims about a so-called "friendship" with Quayle. They said the vice president has met with Olmert only a few times, as does any U.S. senator or congressman with presidential aspirations. They added that Quayle is currently busy with President Bush's primaries race, "and who knows what reprimand he would have received from Bush had he taken time off to chat with Israel's health minister."

The sources also pointed to the decision by the prime minister and foreign minister not to visit Washington at the present time due to the sensitive situation in relations between the two countries and compared this with Olmert's "licentious" approach.

### Shamir Aide Views Reported U.S. Ban on Contacts

*TA2603164392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Menahem Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good day, Mr. Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] Good day.

[Friedman] The most recent U.S. embargo or veto we have learned about is the State Department's directive to all U.S. Administration departments banning any meetings with Israeli officials, except on work-related issues. The directive also stipulates that meetings will only be held between officials directly responsible for the issues discussed. Do you remember such a nadir in relations between the two countries?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not recall such a directive ever being given, nor do we have any verification that such instructions have been issued now. I think there was only one isolated incident. As a result of remarks attributed to Health Minister Ehud Olmert, in which allegedly he personally criticized the President, he was refused a meeting with the vice president.

[Friedman] In other words, this was a personal sanction against Ehud Olmert because of certain remarks that were not appreciated by the Americans, but definitely not the general policy of the U.S. Administration?

[Ben-Aharon] No, it does not stand to reason. The meetings between Israeli and U.S. officials have never exactly followed the rules of protocol. The meetings have not been between exact counterparts in every single case. Therefore, I do not believe that such a directive was issued. It is true, of course, that our relations are at a low point. As someone who has been involved with Israel's relations with the United States for many years, however, I can tell you that there have been worse and more difficult periods. I remember when we encountered problems with the United States in times of war, and during the war of attrition, in which we were denied planes whether due to sanctions or out of a desire to pressure us. Those kind of things do not happen now in the same way....

[Mardor] Do you not feel that additional sanctions are imminent, even if the aforementioned ban on meetings with Israeli officials is not implemented?

[Ben-Aharon] We have received no signs of such intentions, unless you would like to describe what has already happened, or in other words, the loan guarantee issue, as a sanction. Neither Israel nor the United States sees things that way. They claimed that they are unwilling, either directly or indirectly, to finance a policy that contravenes their positions. This relates to the issue of the settlements.

[Friedman] In light of what you have just said, do you have any good explanation for the flood of leaks from U.S. officials about allegedly illegal Israeli arms sales to third countries? One can safely assume that these officials were not acting on their own volition.

[Ben-Aharon] What is the question?

[Friedman] The question is what do you think caused all this if there really are no sanctions or steps against Israel?

[Ben-Aharon] No sanction has been imposed as the result of a decision by the decisionmaking level; one must remember, however, that the U.S. Administration is a pyramid. The President is at the top of the pyramid, with the secretary of state beneath him. When lower-level officials sense an unsympathetic attitude toward a certain country, they translate this attitude into actions and behavior. Sometimes they step beyond the intentions of the decisionmaker.

[Friedman] Sort of like being holier than the pope?

[Ben-Aharon] Exactly. Therefore you find such hostile leaks to the press and a bureaucratic attitude bereft of any manifestations of friendship. Nevertheless, this does not reflect the day-to-day reality we witness, because our

economic and military relations are continuing as normal. You and I are simply more exposed to the media, and the media obviously highlight any developments that are out of the ordinary, especially if these are negative.

[Mardor] In any event, you said relations are not good. The question is whether we are not paying too heavy a price?

[Ben-Aharon] For what?

[Mardor] For the settlements.

[Ben-Aharon] This is a question to which each person would reply according to his own inclinations.

[Friedman] And you would say no.

[Ben-Aharon] You know my reply precisely. There is no question of paying too much. The question is whether the price is high. Given that no Israeli Government would prevent Jews from settling any part of Eretz Yisra'el west of the Jordan River and that we will accept no dictates from a foreign government—even an ally of the State of Israel—on whether or not to allow Jews to settle these areas, we would agree that the price is not high.

[Friedman] One more tiny question. You mentioned the media and our exposure to them. There was a report several days ago that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would visit Israel on 10 April, and Margaret Tutwiler claimed she knew nothing about it. What do you say?

[Ben-Aharon] That is true. We looked into this, through our embassy as well. There is no confirmation to the report that the secretary of state is about to visit. At the same time, let me remind you that we are familiar with James Baker, and we know that he makes his own decisions on such matters. A decision on this could be made, and in a few hours we could hear that he had decided to come after all. Still, judging from the current state of affairs, meaning the peace process and the relations between the United States and the entire region....

[Friedman, interrupting] He has nothing to do here.

[Ben-Aharon] ...I see no particular reason for such a tour. As you know, the man is very busy. If I may, there is one more thing.

[Friedman] Please.

[Ben-Aharon] We have to see the big picture. We should remember that for many years we lived in the reality of a cold war between the two superpowers. This cold war, to a large extent, helped determine U.S. policy toward us and this region. This was the source of the alliance between Israel and the United States. I would say that now we are at a transitional stage in which the United States is the sole ruler. In a sense, it is the only superpower in the world today. I believe that it has not yet adopted policy patterns regarding our region and Israel....

[Mardor, interrupting] It seems that Israel's position will be more problematic from now on.

[Ben-Aharon] This is probable, certainly. I do not believe, however, that they have already reached conclusions of any kind. What did happen was that, in the wake of the Gulf war and the U.S. success—through Baker—in starting some sort of process of a dialogue between Israel and its neighbors, they cling to this as a tangible achievement of the investment they made in the Gulf war. They are clinging to this with all their might, and I believe they are investing too many efforts in the direction of our neighbors, the Arab world, to appease them and sustain their commitment to the peace process. I also believe that this is a process of learning. Among other things, they will learn that there are things which we, in Israel, will not be able to digest. Among them is the issue of the settlements. If I may put it this way, we are at a crossroad where we will know exactly where we stand only when we cross it.

[Friedman] Yosef Ben-Aharon, Prime Minister's Office director general, thank you.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you.

### Moda'i Predicts Apology, Praises U.S. Envoy

*TA2603120692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Report by Roni Sofer]

[Excerpt] In a meeting with high school students in Dimona on the morning of 26 March, Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said he believes that within the next two to three days we will hear a U.S. apology for sending the Pentagon investigators to Israel. The finance minister also praised U.S. Ambassador to Israel William Harrop, who, according to Moda'i, said that such mistakes can happen even between friends. [passage omitted]

### Iranian Embassy Implicated in Argentina Attack

*TA2703090692 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Mar 92 p 2*

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Excerpt] A senior security official told the prime minister that the investigation into the attack in Argentina shows that it was carried out by Hizballah terrorists who were assisted by the Iranian Embassy.

The information was conveyed after the senior security official received details about the investigation that is under way in Argentina and in which his personnel are participating. [passage omitted]

### Germany Said To Want Settlement Freeze for Aid

*TA2703101692 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Mar 92 p 2*

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] Political sources in Jerusalem said last night that Germany too is now linking the granting of financial aid to Israel to a settlement freeze in the territories.

The sources said that the German position, which is similar to the U.S. stand on loan guarantees for immigrant absorption, was presented in talks with Israel.

According to the sources, U.S. officials denied to Israeli diplomats that Germany was urged not to provide aid to Israel. The officials nevertheless admitted that the United States "made its position clear" in talks with Germany.

Jerusalem believes it is possible that the United States did not come right out and ask Germany not to extend aid to Israel, but there is no doubt that the German position is influenced by the U.S. and EC positions.

The sources said that the talks with Germany on aid and reparations for Holocaust victims on behalf of the former East Germany are deadlocked. Economic sources reported that the Germans oppose paying reparations for fear that such an agreement could serve as a precedent for the peoples of East Europe to demand similar compensation.

Germany had been prepared to extend aid or guarantees unlinked to reparations, but its position is now identical to that of the United States, and it is demanding a settlement freeze in the territories. [passage omitted]

## Palestinians Urge Intervention on IDF Units

*TA2603190792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Excerpts] Faysal al-Husayni and families of Palestinians killed in the territories claimed that the security forces have killed 18 Arabs in the territories since November 1991. They leveled especially sharp accusations against the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] special units. The IDF spokesman said that the rise in the number of casualties is a direct result of the growing use of firearms by terrorists in the territories. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports.

[Begin recording] [Amir] At a news conference this afternoon, Faysal al-Husayni and his colleagues demanded that the IDF and Border Police special units be disbanded. They claimed that soldiers from these units and members of the security services had fatally shot 97 residents of the territories, including 18 since November 1991. Faysal al-Husayni called for international intervention and stressed that, in most of these incidents, the Palestinians could have been arrested and not shot dead.

[Al-Husayni, in English] But I am saying that even if someone is holding a gun, there is a law, there is a way how to deal with this man. You can warn him, and then after that, if there will be a fight, so this is another matter. If he refuses to submit his gun or something like this, then this is something else. But killing someone because he is wanted—this is what we are talking about.

[Amir] [passage omitted] The IDF spokesman responded this evening to the Palestinian accusations. The spokesman asserted that the rise in the number of Palestinian casualties in clashes with IDF soldiers is the direct result of the use of firearms by terrorists in the territories. The special units follow legal regulations for opening fire that have been approved by both the Military Advocate General's Office and the State Attorney's Office.

## Diplomatic Recognition of Georgia Decided

*TA2603132592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Israel has decided to recognize Georgia, and an official announcement on this is expected to be made in Jerusalem. Our correspondent reports that the decision was delayed because of the civil war in Georgia, but has now been made because it seems that the caretaker government, headed by Eduard Shevardnadze, is managing to stabilize the country. Our correspondent reports that Israel is interested in establishing diplomatic ties with Georgia and in setting up a representation in Tbilisi, its capital.

## Report on Confederation 'Unfounded and Baseless'

*TA2603132392 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Mar 92 pp 1, 11*

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Amman—A responsible Jordanian source has refuted reports on the establishment of a confederation between Jordan, Palestine, and Iraq. The source said that such reports are totally unfounded and baseless.

The source, who preferred to remain anonymous, commenting on reports from occupied Palestine about the plan to set up a confederation between Jordan, Palestine, and Iraq, said that the Israeli media have been eager to disseminate such rumors every now and then for a well-known purpose; namely, to create confusion and frustration in the Arab ranks.

The source stressed that King Husayn's talks with the U.S. President and members of the U.S. Administration in Washington concerned, first and foremost, bilateral relations and ways to advance the regional peace process.

The Jordanian source explained that the issue of confederation between Jordan and Palestine was not conceived in the past few days, but has been under discussion on various levels between Jordanian and Palestinian officials for more than three years, and a large number of Jordanians and Palestinians support such a step for strategic reasons. As for Iraq's participation in a confederation with Jordan and Palestine, this is not true and is absolutely incompatible with the current situation. The source emphasized that this matter has not been considered by any Jordanian or Palestinian official.

## Deputies Divided Over Proposed Election Law

*JN2603085792 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26-27 March 92 pp 1, 3*

[By staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—A draft election law is being drawn up by the government and will be implemented after the term of the present Parliament comes to an end, a senior government official said Wednesday [25 March].

The official's statement, which he made to the Jordan Times, came after much speculation about the willingness and ability of the current Lower House to formulate a new draft law which would regulate the country's electoral process in the future.

Another high-ranking government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that the next parliamentary elections, due in November 1993, will be held in accordance with the new law.

"The next elections will be held in accordance with the new law and the next Parliament will then be asked to make amendments and ratify this law," said the senior official.

Legal advisers and senior government officials are said to be busily working to draw up the new law which will address many of the grievances that citizens expressed over the temporary election law under which the 1989 parliamentary elections were held.

During Tuesday's session the Lower House stopped short of addressing the issue of changing the election law altogether, when it merely passed minor administrative amendments to the existing temporary election law.

Many members of the House argue that to introduce a motion to change the temporary law—by which they were elected—would automatically endanger their chances of reelection. Many deputies also argue that political parties must be legalised before an effective change in the electoral law can be introduced.

There is a dispute why after almost three years in session the House has not pushed more vehemently for the legalisation of political parties. The Law Committee president, Husayn Mujalli, says that his panel has just finished puting the final touches on the draft law.

While some members of Parliament argue that certain elements in the House intentionally delayed discussing the law, Mr. Mujalli argues that the Law Committee had taken its time to scrutinise and study "every word, every comma in the law."

Meanwhile many deputies defended the House's unwillingness to approach a change of the election law at this stage.

"Without a legalisation of political parties there is no point in introducing a new electoral law," said Ma'an Deputy and head of the Mustakbal party Sulayman 'Arar.

Government insiders say that the new law will take into consideration the existence of political parties and organisations as well as a total end to martial law.

"The new election law will be a very well thought-out law that will allow for the principle of one man one vote," said an official.

Disproportional representation was one of the main grievances of many voters in highly urbanised centres such as Amman and Zarqa during the 1989 election.

But government expresses confidence that the new draft law will eliminate many of the basic faults of the current law.

"The next Parliament will be in a position to endorse a new election law," explained the senior government official. "One cannot expect that this Parliament will vote on a law which would technically and legally end their term in the House as soon as the law is endorsed," said the official expressing understanding for the House's position.

The House has recently come under attack for not drawing up a new election law. Many deputies had said

during their election campaigns that the redistribution of electoral districts would be a priority once they were elected.

However, while some minor amendments were made to the current law before its adoption Tuesday, no petition was made by deputies to discuss a change in the existing temporary law.

While the House Law Committee will study the new draft law during the next parliamentary term, observers and deputies alike say that the drawing up of the draft law should be left to the government.

"It would be counterproductive to have deputies draw up the election law. They would draw it up to suit their purposes," said the senior government official.

"In this case the government will really have more objectivity," he concluded.

The main controversy surrounding the present law is based on the issue of geographical distribution of electoral districts.

The new law, if it is to conform to the one-man, one-vote formula, should draw up smaller electoral districts where each voter would vote for one condidate. Technically political parties would have one candidate in each district and in each district voters would choose the candidate of their choice.

Opponents of the one-man-one-vote formula argue that such a system does not allow automatic representation of the country's minorities such as Christians and Circassians, who are currently represented in strength in the House.

On the other hand, many parliamentary observers argue that in a demoracy there are equal rights but no automatic privileges.

In previous elections tribal and minority voting patterns were observed to the unrepresentative, according to parliamentary observers.

During the 1989 elections Jordanians voted according to a state system, electing up to nine candidates in some districts. With each district having a given number of seats for Muslim, Christian or Circassians, certain political groups were thus able to influence the election of several candidates rather than just one.

The new law, government insiders say, will take measures to preempt such election tactics.

Observers note that these election tactics worked in favour of the Muslim Brotherhood in particular in 1989.

"In many districts the Muslim Brotherhood would support a certain candidate for the Christian seat, for example, and he would win the seat," said an observer. "In the end this Christian deputy will support the Muslim Brotherhood in Parliament and not the Christians in the country. So really that system of representation has only worked superficially."

## Deputies Criticize Media for Alleged Bias

*JN2603083992 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26-27 March 92 pp 1, 5*

[By staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Members of the Lower House of Parliament feel the Jordanian media are not doing enough for the cause of democracy in Jordan and are in fact biased in favour of government line in their coverage and analysis of news and views in the country.

Their feelings were reflected in a House debate yesterday over the media's treatement of parliamentary issues and affairs.

In an unprecedented attack on local media organisations, many deputies blamed the press and the government-run radio and television networks for being mouthpieces of the executive authority and tools of well-to-do newspaper owners.

"We welcome criticism of the third estate," said Islamist Deputy Layth Shubaylat (Amman) of the press's often critical coverage of the 80-member Lower House. "But it would be much appreciated if this same press bothered to focus critically on the government."

In a bitter attack on both the press and the House, Mr. Shubaylat charged that neither provided an outlet for views which oppose those of the government and both were instrumental in what he described as the slow progress that democratic freedoms were making in the Kingdom.

"Where is the opposition? Not here in the House, not in the press. There is only one opinion in this country—it is that of the executive authority. Without opposing views, without the right and ability to express those views there is no democracy," Mr. Shubaylat said.

Several Islamic, pan-Arab and leftist deputies lashed out at the owners of the local papers charging that they did not allow views which contradict those of the government to be published.

"Those who benefit from the status quo are the same people who are not interested in democracy and truth because it could be detrimental to their welfare. So they hide the truth," charged Muslim Brotherhood Deputy 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ukur (Irbid).

While criticism was great and wide ranging, the failure of the local press to print articles which criticised the ongoing peace process was held high up on the agenda of criticism heard in the House.

"The local press unilaterally supported the peace process although it is more than evident that many Jordanians and certainly many deputies oppose this process," said ultra pan-Arabist deputy Salim al- Zu'bi (Ramtha).

"Those who control the press are conspirators in limiting free expression of opinion in this country," Mr. al-Zu'bi asserted.

Many deputy criticised the government, which is part owner of the country's major newspapers, and sole owner of Jordan Television and radio, for indirectly allowing for a lack of free and critical speech.

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Shaykh 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant (Amman) went as far as to call the Jordanian media organisations "supporters of American politics in the region."

Other deputies criticised the press for playing up personal politics of certain members of Parliament and failing to attribute positive steps taken by Parliament to deputies.

"We are always being criticised, but when we accomplish something no-one reports it; It's always what we don't do that is reported," complained Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Humam Sa'id (Amman).

Another Islamist deputy, Fu'ad al-Khalafat, said that a really critical and free press would come about only after political parties were legalised.

"A free and opinionated press is likely to exist only after we legalise political parties. It is natural that the existing press are supportive of the government; they are owned by the government," said Mr. al-Khalafat.

Only one member of the House, Deputy 'Isa al-Rimuni, who is an active member of the Constitution Bloc, said that the press was giving Parliament fair treatement.

"The press criticises Parliament and that is part of its job," he said.

"There are 60 potential political parties in the Kingdom, and they (media) allow all of them to say something in the press," said Mr. al-Rimuni, who was speaking on behalf of several members of the 7-member Constitution Bloc.

The confiscation of several Islamist newspapers, including the Muslim Brotherhood newspaper al-Ribat was steps to prevent freedom of the press by the Ministry of Information and the government, many Islamist deputies charged.

The one media organ which was consistently attacked was Jordan Television for its total support of the government and its "inability to report critically on any news issue."

"Whenever the government disagrees with us," said Deputy Shaykh Ali al-Faqir (Amman), "there is an organised press and TV campaign to defend the government's line." "The bottom line," concluded journalist and Deputy Fakhri Qa'war (Amman) after Wednesday's discussion, "is that everyone—not only Parliament—should be criticised by the press and then we will be able to say we have a free press."

## 'Attacks' on Media Questioned

*JN2603110492 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Mar 92 pp 1, 16*

[Editorial: "The Press and the House of Representatives"]

[Text] What happened yesterday afternoon at a session of the House of Representatives, devoted to evaluating the role of the press and its relationship with the House, proves with glaring facts that many House members have a certain understanding—with which we do not agree—of the role of the press, which is considered in all democracies a fourth estate that should enjoy great respect and prestige.

It is truly regrettable that since the start of the democratic era, our press has continued to be exposed to ferocious attacks and unjust accusations—not to mention obvious, regrettable incriminations—by some members of the House of Representatives who used incomprehensible pretexts in such a manner as to call into question the ultimate goal of such campaigns.

We, in the press, have continuously asked ourselves whether representatives who launch unjust campaigns against the press and journalists are aware of the dimensions and complications of such campaigns, which weaken the democratic experiment, especially since the press is considered the second wing, without which no democratic process can rise, while the House of Representatives is always the first wing.

We also ask ourselves if these ferocious parliamentary attacks on the press would establish an ideal relationship between the House and the press at a time when the fledgling democratic experiment requires the solidarity of all those who have an interest in promoting dialogue and frankness, developing forms of participation and scrutiny, and entrenching the freedom of expression—a freedom that is a top priority for democracy.

Some members of the House of Representatives, who think that the press should be an obedient tool in their hands, began to escalate the campaign, antagonize journalists, and accuse some writers of receiving bribes and submitting to executive authority; not to mention accusations of instigating the public against the House, abridging news about the representatives, and publishing only parts of their speeches and comments—as if the press were merely a file to take down all words, whispers, or jokes spoken by this or that representative.

Against the backdrop of such a record, which pleases neither the press nor those representatives who believe in the vital role of the fourth estate, we consider the vehement attacks on the press during yesterday's session a bad omen that portends exacerbating relations with the House, that destroys one of the most important pillars of the democratic process, and that undermines a bright aspect of our unique experiment in a region overtaken by a spirit of intellectual terrorism and dictatorship.

Accordingly, from our position within the fourth estate, we would like to confirm to those representatives who undervalue the press that the great trust and heavy responsibility require us, in particular, to remain the people's eye, their unofficial means of scrutiny, and their vigilant national conscience in evaluating the performance of the legislative authority, as well as the executive authority, which is not immune to objective criticism. This is the role played by the press in all democratic countries.

### King Husayn Names New Chief of Royal Court

*JN2603162792 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] A royal decree has been issued naming Dr. Khalid al-Karaki as the chief of the Royal Court. This came in a message sent by His Majesty King Husayn to His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the text of which follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother, Your Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir: Please accept our greetings of love, trust, and appreciation. It is a source of pleasure for us to communicate to you our decree that brother Dr. Khalid al-Karaki be appointed Royal Court chief, to succeed brother Mr. 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah as of today.

The devotion, commendable qualities, absolute loyalty, and patriotism we have known in brother Dr. Khalid al-Karaki justify the hope we place in him that he will fulfill the responsibilities of his new post under our direct attention, in the interest of a deepened relationship with the government, the unified Jordanian family of all extractions, and various state agencies. This is in addition to proceeding with a reorganization of the Royal Court to guarantee optimum performance, and to help us shoulder our responsibilities and carry out our sacred duty in serving the homeland and future generations; hoping that the Royal Court will remain a school for coming generations, and that it will receive government support in reorganizing itself as circumstances require. Please accept our best greetings, love, and appreciation.

[Signed] Your brother Husayn
[Dated] Amman, 26 March 1992

### Former Chief Named UN Ambassador

*JN2603172192 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent the following message to His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, incorporating his majesty's desire that the government take immediate and appropriate measures to name Mr. 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah as Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Brother, Your Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir: Please accept our greetings of love, trust, and appreciation. Recognizing the need to appoint a new Jordanian representative to the United Nations to succeed dear brother 'Abdallah Salah, who has returned after a long period of worthy service to assume his place in the Senate; appreciating the fact that the Kingdom's new UN delegate should be experienced and knowledgeable; and further to our discussion on the subject, we hope the government will immediately appoint His Excellency Mr. 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah as Jordan's chief UN delegate.

He is a man who has worked closely with us for many years, and has earned our full recognition and respect. We have no doubt that because of his experience, knowledge, and devotion, he is the ideal choice to assume the responsibility of representing Jordan at the world body. He is a man of thought, in whom we place our confidence, and who has gained considerable experience and knowledge. We find him qualified to assume his new responsibilities as soon as possible, at a time when the foremost international organization is assuming a significant and key role in defining the outlines of the new international relations, and charting the new world order that will govern international relations for a long time to come against the background of recent worldwide changes and developments, including concern for the future of mankind around the globe. We have no doubt that our intimate knowledge of His Excellency Mr. 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah and our willingness to support him in his new office will help him perform his duties in the best possible manner.

On this occasion, we must stress the need to meet all the requirements of the Jordanian mission to the United Nations, so that it may fulfill its heavy responsibilities and carry out its various functions efficiently, to meet our expectations.

You and your fellow cabinet ministers have our best wishes, love, and appreciation. May God take good care of you, and grant us the wisdom to do that which wins us His satisfaction.

[Dated] Amman, 26 March 1992

### Al-Hirawi Reiterates Support for al-Ta'if Accord

*NC2603193492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi this evening spoke at a meal to break fast, which he hosted at the Bristol Hotel. The president stressed the need to respect and safeguard the Constitution, and emphasized commitment to the al-Ta'if Accord and the free democratic system by reviving the role of state institutions—most importantly the Chamber of Deputies. President al-Hirawi referred to preparations for general parliamentary elections that could enable the people to share the responsiblity of power in a free manner. Here is an excerpt of the president's speech:

[Begin al-Hirawi recording] Brothers: The most serious mistake is to assume you are right. The socioeconomic reality we are suffering from must serve as an incentive for us to face the challenges. This can be attained by laying the foundations for a post-war economy that encourages private initiative and a free market, revitalizes industry, consolidates agriculture and land cultivation, and embodies a comprehensive scenario for progress. A little austerity to win Lebanon is better than prosperity that could lead to losing the homeland and the future. It is unacceptable, during peacetime, that the people should give away what was left after the wars in terms of their confidence in the future and potential for progress. It is unreasonable that the citizens' ambitions should sink to the point of being engulfed by the search for food, medicine, a home, and a school. Where are the Lebanese who filled the world with their successes and honored the homeland with their ambition? The coming stage will be fraught with events, challenges, and requirements, and Lebanon must meet them.

Brothers: The responsibility is heavy because the legacy is enormous. Enough of casting doubts, please. Enough of this. This will not undermine the accord, the consolidation of the state, or the completion of liberation. If the target is Lebanon's political stand, we say loudly that this is our choice, from which we will not deviate. If the target is the al-Ta'if Accord, we say that this is the will of the Lebanese, on which there was consensus; and nothing on which there is consensus among the Lebanese will be tampered with. If the aim is to keep us distracted from regaining our sovereignty in the south and western al-Biqa', we say that no matter how great the burdens at home and abroad, we will not abandon our national soil, we will not bargain over our independence and sovereignty, we will not compromise over territorial integrity [wihdat al-kayan], and we will not relent in working to build a strong country that serves as an example for the people. What is required is the participation of all the Lebanese, so that we can maintain Lebanon's safety and build a state for all the Lebanese—a state for the citizens.

Brothers: When one of the World War II Allies emerged in a state of devastation and exhaustion, the advisers thought the job of reconstructing the country was too demanding and did not know where to start. The head of state pointed to the factories and said: As long as these smokestacks are standing, do not fear for your country. I say to you that as long as we have this active people, do not fear for Lebanon. Long live Lebanon! [end recording]

### Leaders Brief Cabinet on Damascus Summit Talks

*NC2703072592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Mar 92*

[Excerpt] The cabinet was briefed last night by the president and the prime minister on the atmosphere of the meetings in Damascus. The cabinet decided to pursue the tasks set out in the ministerial statement, particularly concerning the implementation of the remainder of the al-Ta'if Accord.

The cabinet held a session at 2045 yesterday at the temporary Presidential Palace. The session was chaired by President Ilyas al-Hirawi and included Prime Minister 'Umar Karami and a number of ministers. Ministers Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, Roger Dib, Jamil Kibbi, Niqula al-Khuri, and Sulayman Franjiyah did not attend.

The cabinet's session continued until 2315. Afterward, Information Minister Dr. Albert Mansur gave the following official information:

[Begin recording] [Mansur] His excellency the prime minister briefed the cabinet on the atmospheres of the meetings in Damascus. His excellency the president of the Republic also briefed the conferees on his meetings with President al-Asad.

It has been decided that the cabinet will pursue its tasks as set out in the ministerial statement with regard to implementing the remaining parts of the al-Ta'if Accord, particularly the issues of evacuees, the elections law, administrative divisions, reorganizing the media, and the citizenship law. This is what was discussed during the cabinet's session today.

[Unidentified correspondent] Has the cabinet discussed the economic situation now that the value of the dollar has risen? Are there any new measures?

[Mansur] The finance minister and the Central Bank will deal with this issue.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, has a date been set concerning the issue of administrative appointments?

[Mansur] No, but all the matters we discussed during the cabinet's session should be dealt with as soon as possible and before the next parliamentary elections. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0615 GMT on 27 March in a similar report adds: "It should be recalled that Damascus has advised the Lebanese Government on the need for completing implementation of the al-Ta'if Accord—returning evacuees and holding parliamentary elections—and for resolving the economic and financial situation."]

## Hizballah Cancels 'Jerusalem Day' Processions

*NC2703085992 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0637 GMT 27 Mar 92*

[Statement issued by the "Hizballah Nation" central information unit on World Jerusalem Day]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Go ye forth whether equipped lightly or heavily, and strive and struggle, with your goods and your persons, in the cause of God. That is best for you, if ye but knew. [Koranic verse]

O sons of our Islamic nation, O sons of Hizballah's nation. In view of the recent and unexpected developments in our arena, which expose the wicked aggressive intentions of the malevolent Zionist enemy; proceeding from our legitimate responsibility to confront and to take all necessary precautions to confront the enemy's continuing arrogance and terrorism; and since our battle with the enemy is open to all possibilities and in all positions, we declare to the sons of our Muslim and oppressed people in Lebanon that the processions scheduled to be staged today on the occasion of World Jerusalem Day have been canceled. We call for a general alert in the ranks of the mujahidin and resistance fighters to repulse any possible aggression by all available means and capabilities.

## Israeli Movements Noted

*NC2703102992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 27 Mar 92*

[Text] Our security correspondent reports that the processions and popular celebrations that were scheduled to be staged in Beirut's southern suburb today were canceled this morning after party leaders in the area, especially Hizballah's, received information about Israeli military preparations in the south and western al-Biqa'.

It is known that processions were scheduled to be staged today on the occasion of World Jerusalem Day, but the developments and Israeli movements prompted the various parties, particularly Hizballah, to declare a general alert in the southern suburb, the south, and western al-Biqa'.

Our correspondent in the south has reported that tension prevailed there today after three katyushas were fired from the Shukin area in al-Nabatiyah, and landed in the Marj 'Uyun sector inside the security zone.

Israel's radio correspondent has reported that the katyushas fell outside the security zone and caused no damage.

## Afghanistan

### Blueprint of New Government May Be Ready by July

*BK2603153092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] UN special envoy Benon Sevan said the blueprint of a new government in Afghanistan will be ready possibly by July this year. In an interview in Islamabad on his return from his latest visit to Kabul, he said he has decided to accelerate the pace of the political process to establish peace in Afghanistan. He said he has returned from Afghanistan with positive impressions.

### Loyalist Army Reportedly Foils Coup Attempt

*BK2603103092 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 26 Mar 92 p 3*

[Text] Peshawar—Reports from Kabul say that armymen loyal to President Dr. Najibollah have foiled a coup attempt against the ruling Watan Party government on Tuesday night [24 March].

The Peshawar-based AL BUNYAN news agency in its reports on Wednesday said that Deputy Defence Minister Gen. Nabi Azemi, a Tajik general, was responsible for the coup attempt but the Peshawar-based Afghan Consulate denied the said impression and claimed normalcy in Kabul. However the Peshawar based Afghan resistance groups were also unclear about the exact situation in Kabul as well as in other parts of Afghanistan.

It was learnt that Gen. Nabi Azemi, Deputy Defence Minister, was sent by Afghan President Dr. Najibollah to Mazar-e-Sharif a week before for defusing the tension, which was emerged following the revolt of Tajik militiamen led by Rashid Dostam against the government. But Gen. Nabi Azemi returned to the capital suddenly on Tuesday afternoon.

Mojahedin claimed that Gen. Nabi during his stay in Mazar-e-Sharif developed understanding with the Mojahedin.

The agency further states that Afghan President Dr. Najibollah had become suspicious about the role of Gen. Nabi Azemi in the context of latest happenings in Mazar-e-Sharif.

The agency states that in coup attempt Reshkhoor Garrison, stationed some 12 miles south west of Kabul also participated.

Peshawar-based Afghan Consulate denied the impression that Gen. Nabi Azemi had staged in an unsucessful coup against Afghan Government. A spokesman of the Consulate said normal situation existed in Kabul and there was nothing to worry. He confirmed the arrival of Gen. Nabi Azemi to Kabul city but did not clarify whether Gen. Nabi was invited by Dr. Najib or returned on his own choice.

### 'Deteriorating Situation' Follows Gunfire in Kabul

*BK2603124492 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 26 Mar 92 pp 1,2*

[Text] The amir of Hezb-e-Eslami Afghanistan, Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has cautiously reacted to the deteriorating situation in Kabul following the gun fire on the presidential palace and heavy explosion in Kabul on Tuesday [24 March] night.

In an interview with Afghan News Agency here on Wednesday he said that every night brought the fear of a major mishap in Kabul because the situation there has completely gone out of Najib's control. He advised that in order to meet any sudden incident in Kabul in the event of the removal of Najib or his fleeing Kabul the mojahedin should make alternative arrangements for the constitution of an interim administration.

He stressed that to face any forth-coming eventuality the mojahedin should form a joint cabinet and agree on such an interim government which could be acceptable to all sides and comprise of elements whose hands are not stained with the blood of the nation. The objective of such a government would be the replacement of the puppet regime after its removal, observance of cease-fire, creation of conducive atmosphere for the honourable return of refugees within six months time of its takeover and holding up of general elections in a year, he added.

Commenting over the role of the army during this period, he said that army should keep the security and law and order in Kabul and show loyalty to such an interim arrangement. Over the role of militia, he said that the militia set up should be disbanded and its heavy weapons surrendered to the army.

Meanwhile, mojahedin wireless communications with the city of Kabul mainly remained disrupted throughout the day on Wednesday due to the heavy rains. However, regime wireless communications intercepted by mojahedin in the eastern parts of Afghanistan disclosed that large scale destruction was caused in the explosions in Bala Hisar and the presidential palace. One message intercepted by the mojahedin disclosed that a complete division of the army in Kabul, headed by one general Shams was sweeped by heavy explosions and gun fire.

Reports reaching from the northern provinces of Afghanistan speaks of increasing mojahedin attacks on the regime military centres. After the fall of Aqupa District in Qunduz Province the joint forces of mojahedin have tightened the siege of Qunduz city. The brunt of the attack on the capital of this province is lead by Hezb-e-Eslami mojahedin. Sources believe that the city would fall to the mojahedin very soon. Mojahedin were also making advances on diferent fronts in Samangan and many other adjoining provinces in northern Afghanistan.

In the mean time, reliable sources told that the meetings of the mojahedin leaders for the formation of an interim government were continuing.

Hezb-e-Eslami leaders at suchs meetings have proposed the recommendation of two or three members each of all the major mojahedin parties for the constitution of an interim cabinet that will form the interim government to replace Najibollah's regime in Kabul, the sources disclosed. The proposal also carries a pre-condition that top brass party leaders would not be recommended to the cabinet. After its constitution the cabinet will elect one person as its prime minister for running the affairs of the interim administration.

All except two mojahedin parties have shown their willingness to accept the proposal and form a cabinet on the basis of proportional representation. The two leaders who have not agreed with the proposal as yet are Prof Sibghatullah Mojaddedi and Pir Syed Ahmad Gillani. According to the sources Prof. Sibghatullah Mujaddedi in the beginning was laying stress on the acceptance of the UN proposals but in their Tuesday's meeting he insisted on his continuation as president of the interim government. Later he agreed over his resignation as president of the defunct AIG [Afghan Interim Government] but told the joint shoora that he would call a meeting of his party's ulema to announce his resignation before them, but uptill now no word has come up from him.

The leaders were expected to meet again in Islamabad last night.

### Strongholds Attacked; Ammunition, Weapons Seized

*LD2603172592 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Yesterday the armed forces attacked the centers of concentration and firing positions from which the opposition disrupted the peaceful life of the people of Konduz Province. According to a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section report, heavy losses were inflicted on the warmongers as a result of these attacks. Two ammunition caches and several trenches belonging to them were destroyed while 500 boxes of heavy machine gun ammunition and thousands of rounds of light and heavy weapons were seized by the armed forces.

As a result of the armed opposition groups being beaten back, the security of three villages has been maintained and the people of these villages have resumed their peaceful life.

### Clashes Reported in Kandahar, Kapisa Provinces

*LD2603173192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Four members of the Hezb-e Eslami group of Golboddin, Jamiat-e Eslami, and Mahaz-e Meli Eslami were killed during fierce clashes that took place the day before yesterday [24 March] in parts of Shah Wali Kot and Arghandab districts in Kandahar Province. BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reports that during these clashes, during which heavy weapons were used against strongholds, seven people were injured, several pieces of weaponry were destroyed, and a large amount of ammunition on all sides was destroyed.

Severe armed clashes also took place recently between individuals belonging to Golboddin's Hezb-e Eslami in parts of Nejrab district in Kapisa Province. According to a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section report, as a result of these clashes six people were killed and 12 were injured. The heavy weapons use destroyed a number homes. Heavy material losses have been inflicted on our compatriots.

### Mojahedin Forms Shura, Cabinet in Khowst

*BK2503111992 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 25 Mar 92 p 12*

[Text] Peshawar—One year after the fall of Khowst, its conquerors (Mojahedin) finally managed to form a Shura and a cabinet to run Khowst's affairs and manage its administration.

Khowst was captured by Afghan Mojahedin on March 31 last year. Numerous attempts by the Mojahedin to constitute an administrative structure failed due to a host of factors, foremost being mutual differences. Mojahedin sources however said financial difficulties and the battle for Gardeyz in the early winter impeded their efforts to put together a cabinet and an administration for Khowst.

A Mojahedin spokesman said a ten-member Shura has now come into being after three months of strenuous efforts and negotiations involving about 300 commanders, ulema, tribal elders etc. A seven-member cabinet was also being constituted.

A Mojahedin spokesman said the Shura and cabinet came into being on the second day of Nauroz.

He said the Shura has already punished four people who had violated the sanctity of Ramazan by blackening their faces and making them sit on donkeys which walked in Khowst's Bazars.

## Bangladesh

### Trade Agreement With DPRK Extended to December

*BK2503154292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Text] Bangladesh and North Korea signed in Dhaka today agreed minutes following a four-day meeting between the delegations of the two sides. Both sides reviewed the progress of bilateral trade and agreed to take further steps to increase the volume of trade, both in barter and cash. The fifth barter protocol between Dhaka and Pyongyang, which will expire this month, will be extended up to December this year. Another barter protocol is expected to be signed during the joint economic commission meeting in Pyongyang.

### Zia Apprises UN of Burmese Refugee Problem

*BK2103164392 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Mar 92*

[Excerpt] The UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali has assured Bangladesh of world body's support for resolving the Rohingya refugee problem politically. The assurance came when Prime Minister Khaleda Zia met him at his office in the UN headquarters in New York yesterday [20 March]. The secretary general told the prime minister that in order to find out a solution, the United Nations will adopt a step-by-step approach for assessment of the overall situation and repatriation of the refugees to their homeland. He said the United Nations will endeavor to achieve a political solution to the crisis not merely for the time being but for future as well. Mr. Ghali mentioned that Ambassador Jan Eliasson, the newly appointed coordinator for humanitarian affairs, is working to find out means to solve the problem.

Highlighting the Rohingya problem, Begum Zia said that the number of refugees to Bangladesh has already exceeded 200,000. Bangladesh is doing its best to look after them despite limited resources. She said Bangladesh is endeavoring to solve the problem peacefully. The Myanmar [Burmese] foreign minister was invited to visit Bangladesh for talks on this issue, but there has been no response from the Myanmar side. The prime minister said the military buildup in Myanmar has further complicated the situation. This buildup, she said, is not only a matter of concern to Bangladesh; it has threatened peace and stability in the region. She thanked the UN high commissioner for refugees for the statement of appeal to the international community in this regard. The prime minister urged the secretary general to take urgent measures to create pressure on Myanmar Government to settle (?the issue) so that the refugees can go back to their country with safety and dignity. [passage omitted]

## Iran

### Hashemi-Rafsanjani Marks 'Jerusalem Day'

*LD2703111192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Mar 92*

["Text" of message issued by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 27 March, marking International Jerusalem Day]

[Text] In the Name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Our people are undoubtedly aware that International Jerusalem Day has a different meaning this year. Because of the imposed peace talks, which are in progress, the Islamic Republic and our people have taken a particular stance regarding Palestine and the holy war of the people of Palestine, which they declare to the world through today's rally. They condemn any compromise and disregard for the rights of the Palestinian people. They fundamentally believe that the Palestinian issue concerns the entire Muslim world.

As a revolution which is the front-runner of Islam, we consider it our right and duty to express our view and that of our people. Our people are doing that today. God willing, we will witness the people of other Islamic countries expressing their view in the same way.

### Karabakh Peacekeeping Force 'Under Review'

*LD2603114992 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] United Nations HQ (New York), March 26, IRNA—Senior U.N. officials are of the idea that the Islamic Republic of Iran plays an important role in the ceasefire which continues to hold in Karabakh and in the settlement of dispute between the Caucasus republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia. The remark was made by Iran's permanent envoy Kamal Kharrazi in a talk to IRNA here Wednesday night. Elaborating on Iran's mediation efforts to settle the Karabakh issue, Kharrazi said he had held talks with U.N. secretary general Butrus Butrus Ghali and a number of other U.N. officials in this regard.

On his Wednesday talks with Ghali's special envoy on the Karabakh issue, Cyrus Vance, the Iranian official said that Vance described the situation in Karabakh as critical and underlined the emergency of relief works for people there. Kharrazi said U.N. officials have praised Iran's successful brokering of the ceasefire last Friday, and announced their readiness to cooperate with Iran in its mediation bid.

On the possibility of the dispatch of peace-keeping forces to the area, Kharrazi said no clear plan had yet been made in this connection but, he added, the case was under review. He stressed that Iran would continue its efforts to settle the Karabakh issue and would closely cooperate with the U.N.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi is currently in Baku holding talks with officials of the two belligerent parties.

### Turkish Consulate General in Tabriz Bombed

*LD2603140692 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Tabriz (East Azerbaijan Prov.) March 26, IRNA—A small package of explosives went off in front of the Turkish Consulate General in this northwestern provincial capital Wednesday night, smashing window panes but causing no casualties. An anonymous caller rang up the IRNA office here introducing himself as the spokesman for a group called 'Shahin' [Falcon], and claimed responsibility for the explosion.

He said: "This explosion was in protest to the Turkish Government's measure against Iraqi Kurds and against putting a Turkish air base at the disposal of the U.S. forces." He warned that in case the Turkish Government

failed to revise its anti-Kurdish policy, "Shahin will deal blows on all Turkish interests inside this country and other countries over the world, including the Turkish Embassy in Tehran."

A security official in Tabriz confirming the explosion said the explosive was carbide planted in a pipe and placed in the opposite direction of the street in front of the Turkish consulate building. The explosion made a low noise similar to that of shooting from a G3 machine gun, he added. Tabriz police said that disciplinary forces were seriously following the case, and there was no reason for concern about the safety of the staff of the consulate general.

### Oil Company Denies Report of Structural Changes

*LD2603210692 Tehran IRNA in English 1301 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Tehran, March 26, IRNA—The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has denied any change in its structure and separation from the company of the National Refining Company and distribution of oil poducts.

The NIOC public relations office in a statement Wednesday dismissed reports carried by an English publication on the alleged changes to be made by the Oil Ministry.

According to the publication, the National Refining Company and the Department for Distribution of Oil Products, comprising refineries and distribution and transportation systems, were to be handed over to an economic consortium.

The statement added that the National Refining Company and the distribution of oil products was a subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Company and its separation from NIOC therefore was not true.

Stressing that no new policy had been adopted for the sale of crude oil, the statement noted that the Foundation for the Oppressed and the Disabled of the Islamic Revolution had had no activity in the field of oil and would remain the same in future.

It said crude marketing was being managed smoothly and despite international sanctions, Iran had been able to preserve its quota by employing the best pricing system for its crude compared to other regional countries.

### BAYAN Editor Discusses Rule of Jurisconsult

*NC2303113592 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 14 Mar 92 p 5*

[Report on panel discussion by newspaper editors at Tehran University, including Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, BAYAN editor and Majles deputy—date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A student asked the editor in chief of BAYAN magazine the following question: Last week you were quoted as saying that velayat-e faqih [rule by the supreme jurisconsult] is the ultimate authority. Do you follow this policy, or are the present examples the reason for your faction moving away from this? Mohtashemi replied: Ever since his eminence the imam (may God be pleased with him) propounded the theory of Islamic government and absolute velayat-e faqih in 1969, we have followed it. Even now, there has been no moving away from our beliefs or ideas. We have consistently endorsed velayat-e faqih. The vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult] is the final arbiter, and in sensitive and fateful circumstances—as the leader—has the final say, which all should abide by.

He added: Of course this does not mean that what the leader says is tantamount to an order, and there is always the possibility of error. We believe, however, that if the vali-ye faqih—the leader—says something, it should be followed, even if it is incorrect.

He continued: There was a time when members of this faction were under fire for supporting the thinking of the imam and velayat-e faqih, and now they are being accused of opposing the beliefs and thinking of the late imam by those who hardly support these beliefs themselves. In any case, those who today claim to support absolute velayat-e faqih not only opposed the imam during his time, but also velayat-e faqih, and they continue to do so today.

In fact, today they are using it as club to eliminate the revolutionary forces. God forbid if one day they succeed in their unholy motives, which conform to the policy of the West and the United States. It is obvious that they will pose as leaders and scratch the holy visage of the leadership with their bloodstained claws!

The editor in chief of BAYAN continued: Why is it that when today the great leader raises the issue of the United States and speaks of adopting a certain approach toward it, this faction remains absolutely silent? But when there is mention of the benefits to the rightist, wealthy, merchant class, we see that support is expressed for it on radio and television and in letters and appeals to stage marches and disseminate propaganda in its favor.

Thus, they only agree with what is advantageous to them, and oppose what is not. [passage omitted]

## Nepal & Bhutan

### Prime Minister 'Satisfied' With Trip to PRC

*BK2303123692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1154 GMT 23 Mar 92*

[Text] Kathmandu, Mar 23 (AFP)—Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala returned here Monday [23 March] saying he was satisfied with and highly encouraged by his week-long official visit to China.

He told reporters at the airport that the trip had been a complete success, but added that he had not raised the subject of the Sino-Nepalese border, which some of his

ruling Nepali Congress party members had reportedly pressed him to do before his departure.

While in China, Koirala said he had reiterated Nepal's position that it would not allow on its soil any anti-Chinese activities aimed at protesting Beijing's control of neighbouring Tibet.

"My visit to China was a continuity of the visit made by late Prime Minister Bisweswore Prasad Koirala, who laid the Sino-Nepalese foundation of mutual trust and friendship," Koirala said.

"I am fully satisfied as my visit further consolidated the foundation of Sino-Nepalese mutual friendship" and gave him a chance to get to know Chinese leaders, he added.

Koirala went to China at the invitation of Premier Li Peng and officials said that during his visit Chinese and Nepalese officials signed technical and economic cooperation agreements under which China will grant 50 million yuan (10.3 million dollars) for various projects.

The Chinese also agreed to send a technical team to study a proposed cancer hospital in the Kathmandu area, they added.

Koirala said he had discussed a number of hydroelectric projects with Chinese officials, but declined to elaborate.

Asked for his views on the human rights situation in China, Koirala said the country was moving toward economic liberalisation, but that foreign participation in China's industrialisation effort would be limited until it improved the human rights situation and allowed more political freedom.